

THE TIMES

Worker directors: Why the TUC has got it wrong, page 23

Gloomy CBI survey tells of 'striking collapse' in business optimism

One of the gloomiest surveys of industrial prospects ever produced, Confederation of British Industries reports that business confidence plummeted in a striking collapse in business optimism. Investment intentions have deteriorated and the value of expected orders is conspicuously

weak. Nine out of 10 firms face rising costs and many companies are worried about the competitiveness of their export prices. Mr Campbell Adamson, the CBI director general, urging an end to political interference in industry, appealed to the Government: "For God's sake, lay off."

Lea for end to interference

Mr Malcolm Brown, CBI director, said that the survey of 1,200 firms was the gloomiest since 1962. He said that the survey showed a "striking collapse" in business optimism. He said that the survey showed that business confidence had fallen sharply since the last survey in October 1966. He said that the survey showed that investment intentions had deteriorated and that the value of expected orders was falling. He said that the survey showed that the value of expected orders was falling by 10 per cent. He said that the survey showed that the value of expected orders was falling by 10 per cent.

The survey also gives warning that nine out of 10 firms are facing swiftly rising costs and that more companies are worried about their export prices relative to foreign competitors. The survey was produced in the first half of last month and takes no account of industry's reaction to the package of measures introduced in the mini-Budget, but there was little feeling that the Budget had improved matters. Industrial leaders were making it clear that if the Government did not act to ease company's cash flows the result must be lower investment and higher unemployment. The overriding factor in industry, the CBI says, was a "striking collapse" in business optimism. Only 7 per cent of firms were now more optimistic about the general business situation than they had been four months ago; 50 per cent said they were less optimistic. The resulting negative "balance" of 43 per cent, the difference between those replying "more" and those replying "less"—has been matched only twice in the 16 years of the survey. This was in October, 1966, after the massive deflationary package of that summer, and in January this year, reflecting the troubles in the mines and the oil.

Panovs say 'thank you' for British support

Valery and Galina Panov flew into London yesterday to thank their British well-wishers. Last night they spoke of the two years of bullying by Soviet authorities, which Mr Panov said had still left their marks. His dismissal from the Kirov Ballet two years ago meant that he could not practise properly in a profession where a dancer's skill can be precarious and brief. "We are practising for no more than ten hours a day," he said. "Our muscles would get overstrained otherwise." They hoped to be fit to dance in six weeks and their first appearance will be in Israel in November. They will perform a concert of ballet highlights in Tel Aviv with the Tel Aviv Symphony Orchestra.



Galina and Valery Panov in London yesterday. They hope to dance again in six weeks.

The Israel Government, under whose auspices they are now on one-week visit to Britain, have helped greatly in giving the Panovs what they need. But there is still a difficulty in securing adequate floor facilities to rehearse. It is not so easy for me to adjust myself to the heat in the North and the heat is difficult. But I do like the atmosphere there. People are so good and charming that I feel at home." She said a British women's

magazine had paid several thousand pounds to serialize their story in part. Mr Panov did not like to recall the first dazed week or two in Israel last month. "I wasn't really aware of what was going on around me. My consciousness was blocked and I didn't feel well at all. When I have to talk about my past I immediately feel as if a heavy hammer is hitting me." He said that British public figures should continue to press the case of Soviet Jews. It was the only way of helping them, he said, taking off his shoe to demonstrate his feelings and

hanging it as Khrushchev once did in the United Nations. For his wife, 10 years younger than he is, the pressures in Russia were as bad or worse than for him. The authorities demanded his first to the corps de ballet then tried to make her leave her husband and finally to make him emigrate without her. Her mother produced statements saying that she would not let her leave and that her husband had assaulted her. They were allowed to leave at the time of the Bolshoi Ballet's visit to Britain, during which there were demonstra-

tions. Mrs Panov had a miscarriage and they both went on hunger strike. As a result of the ordeals they went through, Mrs Panov said yesterday, "we loved each other even more. From the very beginning we decided we were going to stay together and no one or nothing in the world was going to change our minds." It will be three or four years before it is medically advisable for her to have children but she hopes to then. "I love ballet and can't live without it, but I love children too." As far as their professional

future is concerned the Panovs are intent on recovering their skills. Mr Panov says: "I want to be an artistic spy, discovering what is going on in the West." They will meet British actors and others who campaigned on their behalf at a private lunch given by the Israel Ambassador today. Lord Olivier and the Prime Minister will be present. "Our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude, admiration and respect for the artistic world of Britain and all the public figures here. What they did showed the Russian people what real humanism means," the Panovs said.

Greek people to decide whether monarchy will be restored

The leaders of the November coup denounced the amended constitution as a fake and abolished the President's special powers. The new regime promised to draft a new charter but did nothing. The main question now is how the country's military leaders will take the Government's surprise move as well as the weakening of the powers that the army enjoyed under the previous charter. One of the first practical results of today's change was that the Minister of Defence retrieved his powers to transfer military officers, a function which was assigned to the service councils. The Government's powers over the restructuring of the military leadership were also restored. It was, perhaps, significant in this context that the Ministry of Defence announced today the transfer of "redundant" officers from the special interregional centre of the military police, after the elimination of this bureau's special political powers. The centre featured prominently in most torture accounts given by political prisoners in the past seven years. The ministry's announcement

said that Major Anastasios Spanos, director of the centre, had been transferred to an infantry regiment serving on the Bulgarian frontier. Next to Brigadier Demetrios Ioannidis, chief of the military police, Major Spanos was regarded as the most powerful officer in the junta. The Government has also carried out the first changes in the Athens police department by replacing the chief of the notorious Asfalia, the security police section. Other purges are expected. Today's constitutional Act virtually banned coups d'etat. It inserted into the 1952 constitution a provision whereby "no individual or any group of people may usurp in any manner the power to exercise popular sovereignty and its authority." The preamble of the Act promised "the rapid restoration of free democratic life" to ensure that the "Greek people should... assume responsibility for its destinies." The Act empowered the Government to rule by decree until a Parliament elected as well as to take retroactive action to redress offences to individual and political liberties since the coup of 1967.

From Mario Modiano Athens, Aug 1 The Karamanlis Government reinstated today the constitution of 1952, which was abolished by the military dictatorship in 1968. The decree substituted the word "president" where the old text read "King". The question of the constitution itself, as well as that of the monarchy, was left open. Mr Karamanlis, in a press statement, said the return to the 1952 constitution was provisional "until the country acquires a charter freely approved by the people". The question of the monarchy would be decided by the people and the powers of the head of state would be exercised in the interim period by the President of the republic. He said: "This problem shall be determined in a definitive manner freely by the Greek people in due time as stated both by the King and myself." Mr George Papadopoulos, the dictator deposed last November, abolished the monarchy on June 1, 1973, by a decree amending the 1968 constitution which had been approved in a referendum generally assumed to have been rigged.

Cyprus villagers flee Turkish shelling

Fighting in the area spread this morning across the range and the Turks are concentrating their fire on the village of Larnaca Laptiou where the National Guard are dug in. The Turks have overrun two villages, Ayios Ermatios and Siskipos, both on the southern slopes. As I was in Laptios three British Army Ferrets under United Nations command rolled into the village in search of the Turkish lines. They had come from Vasilias, a smaller village to the west where the National Guard have taken defensive positions. Another three British Ferrets sat at the old Greek lines on the main coast road about a mile east of Karavas. The exodus from Karavas and Laptios has been in progress ever since the Turks began shelling in the area less than 12 hours after the ceasefire was to come into effect. Cars, lorries, buses and donkey carts fled along the Myrtou road loaded with mattresses and anything that the refugees could carry. All along the Myrtou road, the western approach route from Nicosia, villages inhabited by Greek Cypriots are now virtually deserted. Across the plain in the heat haze are the first positions. Continued on page 2, col 6

From Paul Martin Laptios, Aug 1 Thousands of villagers fled in everything mobile from Laptios today as Turkish shells and mortar fire exploded round the hillside. Once a picturesque Greek Cypriot village of 6,000 people, it was deserted by midday. It has been one of several villages in the western tip of the Kyrenia range to come under attack in the past 24 hours. The ceasefire agreement has little meaning in the area. The Turkish lines are about a mile from the village. Although the shelling round the village forced the National Guard to fall back to another defence line, the Turks do not appear to have captured any significant slices of territory, the same applies to the village of Karavas nearby; the Turks have pushed forward but the village is a no man's land. On the ridge of the Kyrenia range, palls of smoke rise above the Turkish artillery positions. The silence is broken by the frequent thud of artillery and mortars and machinegun fire. The Greek Cypriot National Guard still holds the western extremity of the range, but the Turks are trying to erode their position.

Headstrong Wilson says 'orses' in cabinet

George Clark, Wilson's official Correspondent, said that the Prime Minister last night stressed cabinet statements by Lord President of the Council, that there were forces at work in politics determined to bring down the Government. Mr Wilson was being interviewed on television by Mr Robin referred to false accusations made against Mr Shovon on basis of forged bank documents purporting to show that he generated a Swiss bank account. Wilson spoke of "demagogues undermining going and added: "These smear campaigns in public life—one being totally disproved this morning—designed to destroy the faith in politics and politicians, and should be utterly diatribe by all parties." Mr Wilson was asked about speech made by Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, last Friday in which he emphasized that the Labour Party should win moderate rather than concentrate on extreme policies of nationalism. The Prime Minister said: "I agree with Roy Jenkins. No government in this country can be successful, if it is not elected by a majority of voters who are acknowledged supporters of the party. That is why I shall try to bring together people of very different opinions, all of them socialists." Mr Wilson said that he had been keeping his very brilliant team together, even though there were some headstrong horses in the team. He added the country to have an agreement with all those of view and yet in the speaking with one view, nevertheless, referring to Mr Jenkins' speech. Mr Wilson said: "I deprecate public debate by a member of the Cabinet about what the Cabinet will be doing by members of the Cabinet."

Poll shows Labour leading by 6 1/2%

Public confidence in the Labour Government appears to have rallied in the past few weeks. The latest survey for The Times by Opinion Research Centre shows Labour's lead over the Conservatives. The 6.5 per cent Labour lead reported in this survey is in marked contrast to the evidence of recent polls, which have suggested a worsening of Labour's electoral prospects. Most of the interviewing for the survey was completed before last weekend's speech by Mr Jenkins and the recriminations within the Labour party that followed it. It is possible that several key elements in Mr Heath's mini-Budget have contributed to this revival in Labour's fortunes; the 2 per cent reduction in value-added tax, rebates for those severely affected by rate increases, and aid on the mortgage front. The first instalment of Labour's pension increases may also have helped to boost the Government's popularity. It is, of course, possible that this shift of opinion is exaggerated by deficiencies in the sample. All surveys are subject to these hazards. Careful examination of the results does not support that conclusion. The changes in support for the two parties are small enough to lie near the margin of error, but the internal consistency of the results suggests that the changes are real. The volatility of the electorate in the past two years has been widely attested in polls and at by-elections. There is no reason to suppose the survey overstates the extent of this volatility. The survey indicates that the swing-back to Labour is positive rather than anti-Conservative.

Table showing the standings of the Conservative Party and its leader since the beginning of July. It includes a table with columns for April, May, June, July, and Now, and rows for 'Well', 'Badly', and 'Don't know'.

Q.—On the whole, do you think the Conservative Party would run the country well or badly if it were re-elected? The answers are expressed in percentages.

Table showing the results of the survey on whether Mr Heath would do a good job or a bad job as Prime Minister. It includes a table with columns for April, May, June, July, and Now, and rows for 'Good job', 'Bad job', and 'Don't know'.

Q.—Do you think Mr Heath is doing a good job or a bad job as Prime Minister?

Radiographers call off industrial action

After talks yesterday with Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, leaders of about 9,000 radiographers agreed to advise their members to call off industrial action. The Society of Radiographers, representing about 6,000 members, said it would wait for the annual industry award. The award by Lord Halsbury's committee on September 16, Mr Ernest Higginbottom, vice-president of the society, said normal working should be resumed in September. A joint statement issued after the meeting with the society said that Mrs Castle had agreed to ask Lord Halsbury if at this stage of his inquiries he could say what would be the range of the interim increases his committee would recommend in its report in September. The other big union involved in the radiographers' dispute, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, with about 3,000 members, agreed after talks with Mrs Castle to postpone for a week its planned action, due to start next Monday.

Gunman frees kidnapped PC after search

A policeman and two other men who were kidnapped at gunpoint at Congleton, Cheshire, yesterday were released unharmed later, near Rugby, 70 miles away. The kidnapping began when Det Constable John Evans and Police Constable Charles Wright were making inquiries after a break-in at a house in which a revolver and an automatic had been stolen. The policeman who was about to buy a ticket at Congleton station. He forced PC Wright into his own panda car at pistol point. The other policeman broke away and gave the alarm. Shortly afterwards Mr Peers, a scrap dealer, was reported missing as well as his mini-van. An intensive search operation was mounted involving Cheshire police and neighbouring forces, many of whom were armed with pistols and rifles. Two RAF helicopters were called in. Road blocks were set up and members of the public were warned in local radio broadcasts that the gunman might be dangerous and should not be approached. Later PC Wright, Mr Nix and another man were freed by the gunman at Stockton, near Rugby. The police named a man they wanted to see in connexion with the incident as Barry Robinson, aged 33.

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The Thirties Look—Chester Barrie Style. Double breasted two-piece suit with bold lapel rolling to two-button fastening. Superfine all-wool worsted, richly striped: blue in navy, or maroon on black. Sizes 36"-44" in short, regular, or long fittings. ETO. Men's Shop, Grand Floor. Harrods. Knightsbridge, London SW1X 2LL. 01-760 2884.

France sued by EEC for subsidy 'violations'

David Cross, EEC spokesman, said the European Commission has opened legal proceedings against the French Government over its decision to pay special subsidies to its dairy and pig farmers. It is also considering court action against the plan Government for a series of similar payments in the cultural sector. The Commission said today, Mr Pierre Fontaine, the Commissioner for Agriculture, said that talks this week with Mr Christian Bonnet, the French Minister of Agriculture, had failed to persuade the French Government that the subsidies granted a violation of EEC

free trade rules. The Commission had no alternative but to open a court action. He personally was equally concerned about some of the measures announced by the Belgian Government yesterday to help their ailing farmers. Special national payments announced for sows and additional aid for farmers in the poorer area of Belgium appeared at first glance to infringe the Community's free competition rules. He agreed that the unilateral measures taken by the French and Belgian Governments outside a Community framework could have a domino effect in other parts of the Community. It was self-evident that if one

country agreed to a series of national measures under pressure from its protesting farmers, then angry farmers in other countries would extract similar concessions from their own governments. With most members of the European Commission already on holiday and agricultural ministers of the Nine preparing for their August break, Mr Lardinois ruled out any emergency agricultural meeting before September. A badly organized meeting in the near future would be worse than no meeting at all, he felt. Nevertheless, a group of Commission experts would be working throughout August to try to find new solutions to the

Families flee wartime bomb

About eighty families left their homes in Valetta Road, Plaistow, London, yesterday after a Second World War German bomb "in a very dangerous condition" was unearthed by a mechanical digger. Newbam social services department found people emergency accommodation in a centre for the disabled, while a bomb disposal squad steamed out the explosives.

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HOME NEWS

SDLP taken aback by 'rancorous' statement from UDA after their first secret discussion in Belfast

From Stewart Tandler Belfast
Confusion and some anger seemed to be the fruits of the first meeting ever held between the Social Democratic Labour Party, the mainly Roman Catholic political party, and the Ulster Defence Association, the Protestant paramilitary organization, which took place at a secret Belfast venue yesterday.

last week after the UDA had invited discussions with Roman Catholic groups. Most other Protestant groups have expressed antipathy to the talks. After the meeting the UDA statement said: "The condition of future meetings, if they would drop aspirations for an all-Ireland situation and accept that union with Great Britain was not negotiable, could not do that, and to the light of that failure the SDLP must be held in no small measure responsible for any further violence."

Mr Edward Milne, Independent Labour MP for Blenheim, Northumberland, said last night at a public meeting in his constituency that, like Mr Edward Short, leader of the House of Commons, he was the victim of a "dirty tricks department".

Mr Milne says he is 'dirty trick' victim

Mr Edward Milne, Independent Labour MP for Blenheim, Northumberland, said last night at a public meeting in his constituency that, like Mr Edward Short, leader of the House of Commons, he was the victim of a "dirty tricks department".



Before the 50-mile traffic jam: Gracius motoring, with parasol and champagne, demonstrated by Miss Carol da Sousa and this 1900 Renault, at the Great Motoring Extravaganza at Olympia, London, yesterday. The exhibition is staged by the Castrol Oil Company.

Tory MP's plan for controlling inflation

By Our Political Correspondent
The "harsh realities" that will have to be faced if the Conservative Party comes back into power were described frankly yesterday by Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford, who is the Opposition frontbench spokesman on economic affairs. In a letter to his Conservative supporters in the Bramley area, after giving warning of the serious economic consequences of the continuation of Labour policies, Mr Howell posed the questions: "How do we prevent them? What is the right way forward to forestall the national collapse which they would certainly bring about?"

Wanted Glasgow priest is living in a Limerick monastery

From Robert Fisk Limerick
Father Bartholomew Burns, the Irish-born Roman Catholic priest who is wanted on explosive charges by the Glasgow police, is living, with permission from the local Roman Catholic authorities, at a monastery in Limerick.

Confraternity confirmed yesterday that Father Burns has been living in the monastery since he refused to say more. "We do not want to talk to correspondents about this," he said.

According to local people, Father Burns regularly says Mass in the monastery church and helps to run a social club, the Concord, for young people in Limerick.

Changes may yet be made to Labour manifesto

By John Groser Political Staff
Changes in the Labour Party manifesto have not been ruled out for the meeting at Transport House today which will attempt to prune the draft document from its present 16,000 words to 8,000.

Ministers yesterday did not exclude the possibility of quite significant alterations being made before the manifesto goes into its final print. There could, for example, be some "charges of emphasis", as one minister put it, although he would not comment on the suggestion that Mr Benn's nationalization proposals would be "dressed up".

Glasgow woos civil servants in television link

From Ronald Faux Glasgow
Sir William Gray, Lord Provost of Glasgow and indefatigable wooer of government departments in the city, spent more than an hour on closed circuit television yesterday trying to allay the fears of civil servants in London who are to be dispersed northwards.

Newspaper price too low, Reed chief says

By a Staff Reporter
The Daily Mirror ought cost more, Sir Don Ryder, chairman of Reed International, paper group of which the national Publishing Corporation is part, said yesterday.

Report criticizes safety at radiation-leak plant

Ventilation equipment, instrumentation and emergency procedures at the nuclear fuels plant at Windscale, Cumbria, where 35 men were slightly contaminated by a radiation leak last September, should be improved, according to a report published yesterday.

A reaction built up and gas escaped into the working area. The ventilation system was unable to cope. The report also states that the monitoring instruments, which should have warned the staff, were inadequate and there was no specific evacuation procedure for the emergency.

England fourth in chess championship

From Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent
Thornaby, Cleveland
With the Soviet Union a certain first to the World Students' Team Chess Championship, the second and third positions depended on the result of the match between Hungary and England to the last round and in particular on the adjourned game between Vadász and Mestel.

Commons committee calls for rise of 8p a gallon in producer-price of milk

By Our Agricultural Correspondent
A rise of 8p a gallon in the producer-price of milk is recommended in a Commons committee report published yesterday.

achieving it must be an improvement in net returns. Evidence from such bodies as the National Farmers' Union and the milk marketing boards, it says, suggests that at least another 4p a gallon is needed to offset recent cost increases and the fall in the price of bull calves, estimated by one farmer at 2.25p.

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section containing maps of the UK and Europe, and tables of weather data for various locations including London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

Concorde to show paces in Middle East

By Arthur Reed Air Correspondent
The second production standard Concorde is to fly to Teheran on Wednesday to give demonstrations in an attempt to convince Iran that it should take up the options to buy the supersonic airliner.

Poles' plan for a memorial to Katyn massacre victims meets opposition from the parishioners of St Luke's

By Philip Howard
An ecclesiastical court, sitting on a superficially parochial matter, yesterday resonated with memories of one of the darkest acts of genocide in this black century.

Genocide echo in a consistory court

up the monument, and it was sought in 1972. The church council has now decided to oppose it.

Matron who ill treated boys sentenced

Mrs Nellie Edith Clarke, aged 53, the former matron of a home for mentally subnormal boys, received a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, after being found guilty of neglecting and ill-treating children in her care.

Freer victim's husband's return

Two detectives investigating the death of a Middlesex woman whose body was found in a defroster at her home 14 months ago are flying to Spain today to accompany her husband back to Britain.

Freer victim's husband's return

Mrs Denise Feirbairn, aged 28, was found dead at Sparrow Farm Drive, Feltham. An inquest jury returned a verdict of murder. Her husband, Brian, aged 35, a jobbing builder, has been serving an eight-month sentence in Spain for stealing from Mrs.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

HOME NEWS

Minority government better than coalition for the Liberal Party

George Clark
Political Correspondent

If there is deadlock again after the next election, the Liberal Party would do better to support a minority government of its choice rather than enter into a coalition with another party, the Liberal monthly *New Outlook*, says in the latest issue, published yesterday.

Edited by Lord Beaumont of Whitley and Hilary Muggidge, the journal has much influence among Liberals; its editorial consultants include several of Mr Thorpe's close advisers.

The leading article says that no government of national stability is feasible—and the Labour Party's present refusal to consider one should not be considered final—then the Liberal Party would prosper better supporting a minority government. "Under these circumstances, our influence could be very considerable, and there would be a reasonable chance of getting perhaps one or two liberal measures through Parliament," the article says.

"At the very least we could ensure that we were the Government's main opposition," it says. "In the past, these would not be counted in effect by mismanagement."

That situation, the article says, has to be contrasted with the position of the Liberals in a coalition with one party. "We should be given a few unimportant ministries and our voice would be muted by the doctrine of collective responsibility of ministers. We would be identified

Councils told to adopt national rule of conduct

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government has given support to certain recommendations of the Redcliffe-Maud committee on local government conduct, including the adoption of a national code of conduct.

The code, which the committee produced in draft form, lays down guidelines to local authorities on the disclosure of pecuniary interests, the use of confidential information, gifts and hospitality, and the public duty and private interest.

A joint circular to local authorities in England and Wales from the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office points out that consultations are in progress with the local authority associations about the establishment of such a code, and about proposals that would need legislation or demand action by bodies other than local authorities.

Among the main recommendations that would need legislation are the proposals to establish a statutory register of councillors' pecuniary interests and to strengthen sanctions against those breaking the law.

Recommendations put in the far recent consultation "by your council, its members and employees," include the provision of clear arrangements for reviews of internal procedures, for investigating complaints, for pursuing "vigorous" policies of public communication, and for restricting outside work by council employees.

Spanish melons have become cheaper in the past week and start at 18p each for a small specimen to 30p. A fruit with enough flesh for four good portions should not cost more than 22p to 26p.

Small South African avocados are in season and are cheaper than those from East



Mrs. Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, with Mr John W. Evans, president of the Society of Radiographers, in London yesterday when she had talks with the society's council.

Dismissal of chief executive 'disturbing'

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal spokesman on local government, yesterday asked Mr Crnsland, Secretary of State for the Environment, to look into the "disturbing" implications of the dismissal of Mr Maurice Gaffney, Chief Executive of Somerset County Council.

He said he had written to Mr Crnsland, and added: "Chief executives no longer have the protection they had before reorganization. It appears that one of the reasons for Mr Gaffney's dismissal was because he tried to put corporate management into practice too quickly for the council."

Mr Ross, MP for the Isle of Wight, said it was clearly not right that a chief executive could just be got rid of for trying to introduce the system of management accepted for reorganized authorities by the Government.

"I think there must be protection for chief officers, and the right of appeal", he added. "Certainly it is of great concern, if other councils are going to take umbrage at the implementation of the new structure."

Before reorganization, county clerks were appointed with the approval of the Department of the Environment and could not be dismissed without its consent. Now chief executives have no such protection and have no one to turn to in such circumstances.

Their representative body, the Association of Local Authority Chief Executives, is to examine the situation as a matter of urgency.

Mr Tom Ford, secretary, said that to dismiss the top official for alleged rudeness and tactlessness would surely have been classed as an unfair dismissal attracting compensation if Mr Gaffney had been able to get his case before an industrial tribunal. But he had not held office long enough to enjoy protection under the Industrial Relations Act.

Mr John Boynton, chairman of the association and chief executive of Cheshire County Council, said the Local Government Act, 1972, had removed the statutory protection for some officers. He suggested the introduction of appeal and consultation machinery.

In brief

Family-planning service curbed

No new patients are to be accepted for a free family-planning service at Dudley, West Midlands, which has proved too popular.

Dr George Reynolds, the medical officer, said in a report, that 5,000 had been spotted on the scheme between April and June; only £15,000 had been budgeted for the whole year.

Parties choose

The Liberal Party has adopted Mr Glyn Jones, aged 41, as prospective parliamentary candidate for Newark, a Labour seat, and Mr Philip Rule, aged 38, as prospective candidate for Lichfield and Tamworth, held by the Conservatives.

Mr Robert Moreland, aged 32, has been adopted as prospective Conservative candidate for Pontypool, held by Labour.

Painting to be restored

The Adoration of the Magi, Rubens's painting which was scratched with the letters IFA while hanging in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, will be fully restored by the end of the summer, the Rev Michael Till, Dean of King's College, said yesterday.

Extradition case date

The full hearing of the extradition case brought by the Hongkong Government against Peter Godner, a former police chief superintendent in the colony, charged with corruption, has been set for October 7, 8, 10 and 11 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London.

Redundancy basis up

The maximum amount of a week's pay used for the calculation of redundancy payments is to be increased from £40 to £80 from August 28, the first time the figure has gone up since 1965, when the Redundancy Payments Act was introduced.

Mother stole sugar

Mrs Ann Kleariff, aged 39, of Belton Road, Cricklewood, London, a mother of four children, stole 10 spoon-sized packets of sugar valued at 1p each from the hotel where she worked because of the sugar shortage. She was fined £25 at Marylebone Magistrates Court yesterday.

Jersey reprieve

The death sentence passed in Jersey in May on Kenneth Sharp English, aged 47, of South Shields, co Durham, for the murder of Mrs Eva May Culleo, aged 60, has been commuted to life imprisonment.

Mr Thorpe hears Labour death knell in Benn plan

Plans for the nationalization of shipbuilding, announced by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, on Wednesday, have "sounded the death knell for Labour at the next general election", Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, said last night.

Speaking at Gillingham, Kent, he said of Mr Benn: "It was too much to expect that Mr Wilson could keep him from blurring out Labour's nationalization plans before October."

"We now know exactly why Labour wants a majority at the election and why Mr Wilson will refuse to govern without one. The huge losses sustained by other nationalized concerns such as the Post Office and the electricity supply should make us sceptical, if not fearful, of

the mass nationalization plans which Labour propose.

"There is absolutely no evidence to indicate that nationalization of the shipbuilding and marine engineering industries will do anything to solve chronic problems of inflation which this country faces.

"The nationalized industries have become the whipping boys of successive governments' economic policies. Undercapitalized, underpriced, overworked and overcontrolled, they are fast becoming crumbling pillars of our economy.

"If Mr Benn is hell-bent on becoming the Sanson to tear down the whole edifice of the Labour Party, we as Liberals will campaign to ensure that the country does not suffer the same fate."

Family allowance sought for all children

A campaign has been launched for family allowances to be paid for all children. It is called the Family Allowance Movement.

In a letter to Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, the movement demanded family allowance for the first child, and challenged the contention that the allowance could not be paid before 1976.

It said that the retail price index took no account of family size.

Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams, Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea, who is chairman of the movement, said it was set up after a meeting between Mrs Castle and family organizations last month

Tomatoes, cauliflowers and carrots expected to cost less this weekend

The first fresh sweet corn is arriving from Spain and from a limited sampling its quality seems higher than last year. The cobs are packed in pairs, which sell for about 22p. When the best home-grown cobs reach the shops in a few weeks they are unlikely to cost much less than 3p each.

Spanish melons have become cheaper in the past week and start at 18p each for a small specimen to 30p. A fruit with enough flesh for four good portions should not cost more than 22p to 26p.

Small South African avocados are in season and are cheaper than those from East

Cardiff traffic wardens strike over pay

From Trevor Fishlock
Cardiff

The 28 traffic wardens employed in Cardiff went on strike yesterday, the biggest day of the week, over dissatisfaction about pay negotiations.

The wardens arrived as usual at their offices, in two of the city's police stations, but instead of going out to direct traffic and stick tickets on offending vehicles they remained in their offices all day, talking and reading. They judged from the grumbles of police colleagues that their action was proving effective.

The wardens, members of the National Union of Public Employees, say there is lack of progress in pay and overtime negotiations with their employers, the South Wales Police Authority. They want an increase on their basic £22 a week and all Saturday work to be regarded as overtime.

Mr James Milton, their shop steward, said: "After months of getting nowhere our patience has simply run out. Mrale among wardens in the area is low. We chose Thursday for our strike because it is the day when, traditionally, the people stream in from the valleys to do their shopping, and the roads are very busy.

"We do not like inconveniencing people and loading more work on to our colleagues in the police, but they understand our situation."

Food prices

20p a pound to 12p in markets, 14p in some supermarkets and groceries, and 15p to 18p elsewhere.

Although supplies of salmon and haddock have been cut, many varieties of fresh fish are becoming cheaper.

Meat and poultry prices will be largely unchanged, but there may be some increases on seasonal fruit, particularly in the South, where the season ends first. If you want fresh strawberries or raspberries, it would be wise to buy them this weekend unless you live north of the Wash. Strawberries cost 20p to 50p a pound, and raspberries 44p to 50p.

Glasgow rates up 7%

Glasgow announced a 7 per cent increase in rates yesterday. The domestic rate is to be £1.23 and the non-domestic £1.40.

Isn't it time you were seen in one?

How long have you been telling yourself, if not every one else, that the Jaguar is your sort of car?
And how much longer will it be before you do something about it?
Consider your reasons for holding back.

Satisfaction with your present car? This feeling might well disappear after a fast drive in an XJ6 or XJ12.
The cost? Most unlikely, we should think: the Jaguar's outstanding value for money is legendary, and in its class, probably unique. Or do you perhaps feel some-

how that the reality of the Jaguar can never match the impressions you have cherished over the years?
Rest assured. There is still nothing like a Jaguar.
The combination of superb finish and excellent engineering will live up to your highest expectations

and in all probability, comfortably exceed them.
You know you can see yourself in a Jaguar. Isn't it time to stop reflecting?

Jaguar

Select committee against merging of procedures to deal with sexual and racial discrimination

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Methods of curbing sexual and racial discrimination should be kept separate, the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration said in a report yesterday.

"We do not share the Home Secretary's aim to harmonize, and possibly to amalgamate, the powers and procedures for dealing with sex and race discrimination," it stated.

The reasons the select committee gives are partly that race presents special problems and that the roles of neither the Race Relations Board nor the Community Relations Commission have yet developed adequately.

The report criticizes the TUC and the CBI for lack of leadership in race relations.

The report, which is an employment, said a degree of sensitivity is required in the treatment of immigrants, which sharply distinguishes it from the issue of equal opportunity for women.

Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, has proposed setting up an equal opportunities commission to deal with sex discrimination.

The powers against discrimination by sex would be stronger than those at present against racial discrimination. The commission is to have power to require the production of information.

"We have recommended that this power should be given to the Race Relations Board in order to speed up its conciliation process", the select committee said.

The commission is to be empowered to issue non-discrimination notices enforceable through the civil courts, but the select committee thinks similar powers should not be granted to the Race Relations Board at present.

The commission would also be able to conduct general inquiries and research, in advice government, and to take action to educate and persuade public opinion.

"This gives it the combined functions of the Race Relations Board and the Community Relations Commission", the select committee said. "Such a combination in the race relations field might fill the vacuum caused by the inadequacy of the Community Relations Commission and the previous failure of the Race Relations Board to carry out more advisory work."

Complaints about sex discrimination in employment would be dealt with industrial tribunals, rather than through a conciliating agency backed up by the civil courts as in race relations.

"We believe that the new procedure proposed for sex would be less suitable for dealing with racial discrimination

because of the need to attempt expert conciliation initially and the importance of race's special problems", the committee added.

After publication of the report there was a difference of opinion over whether the Race Relations Board should have further powers of investigation.

Mr William Deedes, MP, the committee's chairman, who said that the report was an interim one, told a press conference that it inferred that voluntary methods should first be tried with more energy. The board needed more backing and resources from the Government to do that.

But Mr Guy Barrett, MP, a member of the committee, said he believed that the board should have the powers it wants.

Sir Geoffrey Wilson, chairman of the board, said afterwards: "Even if we were to have the increased resources recommended by the committee we cannot do the job effectively without the backing of stronger legislation."

"I find it quite impossible to understand how anybody can think that the powers needed to promote racial equality should be weaker than those needed to promote sex equality."

Report from the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration, Session 1974, Employment.

Policeman failed to report assault

A police sergeant who did not report to his superiors a sexual assault on a girl aged eight, because of his position as a bishop in the Mormon Church, said yesterday that he had been made to leave the force after a disciplinary hearing.

The man who committed the assault, also a Mormon, killed the girl seven months later by hitting her with a brick.

Mr David Deacon, of South Shields, Co Durham, said he had been found guilty of neglecting his duty as a policeman. "I was told that I had to resign from the force or be dismissed."

Mr Deacon said that Mr Clarence Cookley, Chief Constable of Northumbria, found him guilty at a private disciplinary hearing at police headquarters in Morpeth on Wednesday.

Mr Deacon explained why he had kept silent about the first assault by Paul Henry O'Leary on Julia Brown. "Mrs Brown, Julia's mother, approached me because I was a bishop in the Mormon Church and O'Leary was a church councillor. He told me about an incident on South Shields beach last summer."

"I approached Julia's mother, but she was absolutely adamant that she did not want the incident reported."

"I was accused of breaching a police standing regulation, but I consider I used my discretion and was not told about the incident as a policeman, but as a friend and a spiritual leader. It cannot be said that if I had reported the matter he would never have been able to kill Julia seven months later."

Mr Deacon is to appeal to the Home Secretary over the outcome of the hearing.



Falcon, a baby giraffe, getting help from its mother, Rona, a few minutes after being born at Longleat.

University police harassed by night telephone calls, former proctor says

From Our Correspondent

Oxford
During student unrest at Oxford earlier this year, harassing telephone calls were made at night to members of the university police, it was said yesterday, when the wife of one of them answered, she was asked whether she knew she would be a widow within a week.

The Oxford University Gazette yesterday published an undelivered section of the speech made by Mr James Campbell, fellow of Worcester College, on March 20, when he handed over office as senior proctor.

The section was left out at the time because the university disciplinary court was hearing charges against 18 students who occupied the Indian Institute on February 13.

Mr Campbell said: "It is folly to believe that junior member agitations will not recur; but when the next wave of troubles comes, as come it will, this year's experience makes it absolutely certain that things should be borne in mind."

"First, that the agitation may be initiated and orchestrated by groups whose aim is disruption. Second, that never, no matter what the temptation may be to buy peace and hope for the best, never under any circumstances should the university make any concessions which will in the slightest impair its power to defend itself. We found its present powers barely sufficient."

Mr Campbell said the troubles arising from occupation of the Examination Schools in November and the Indian Institute in February were to a large extent the responsibility of small groups whose aim was disruption for its own sake. Those most concerned were the International Marxist Group and the International Socialist.

He continued: "Both are Trotskyist; both are national organizations; neither contains more than 25 active junior members. Although these groups have doctrinal differences and are interminably given to mutual recrimination, they, or their members, tend to act together and in association with other junior members of extreme views."

"Their principal organ is the Oxford Strumpet, a lithographed magazine published weekly in term. It is apparently controlled by the IMC but contains contributions from others."

The assaults on the university were in support of demands for a general students' union. This issue was factitious. If Oxford had already had a central students' union then some other issue would have been brought up, as other issues were brought up in other universities, notably Essex.

Mr Campbell commented that the hearings of the disciplinary court had been needlessly, extensively and deliberately protracted. Some of the 18 students found guilty and sent down from Oxford for a year asked the university to help with their legal expenses. The university refused.

There was, he said, a small, but very important minority who were determined on disrupting and whose excesses were frequently not the result of the occasional aberrant individual behaving badly or of hot-headedness but were deliberate and spiteful.

Sergeant John Iles said there had been at least nine cases of dog bites in the area since the beginning of June, three involving children. In five cases dog owners had been warned, two had been reported for summonses and two could not be traced.

Mr John Billington, the coroner, recording a verdict of accidental death, said Mr Foxall was in a rather precarious state of health.

Acute fright led to death of man bitten by a dog

From Our Correspondent

Oxford
Mr Raymond Foxall died of fright after being bitten by a dog, an inquest was told yesterday. His body was found slumped over a passageway fence near his home at Bellefield Road, Winson Green, Birmingham. There was a dog bite on his leg.

Witnesses said that Mr Foxall, aged 47, a storeman, had been to a party the previous night. Tests showed that he had drunk the equivalent of eight pints of beer.

Dr E. L. Jones, consultant pathologist, said Mr Foxall died from cardiac arrest after suffering acute fright, due to a dog bite.

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North-east councillors 'in currency smuggling plot'

From Our Correspondent

Southampton
A group of town councillors and prominent businessmen from the North-east were involved in a plot to smuggle large amounts of British currency into Spain to finance a "working men's type club" on the Costa Brava, Southampton magistrates were told yesterday.

The group duped an army veteran into smuggling the money out of the United Kingdom. It was alleged.

Edward Frederick Rush, aged 49, of Oakfield, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, pleaded guilty to two charges of being concerned in the illegal export of cash totalling £3,850. He was fined £400 and ordered to pay legal costs of £30.

The chairman told Mr Rush that he had committed serious offences but the bench felt he had been let down by his colleagues in the venture.

Mr Peter Connelly, for the Board of Customs and Excise,

said that on August 8 last year Mr Rush gave an interview to two reporters of the Northern Echo, Darlington, concerning the "rise and fall" of a night club venture in Spain.

During the interview Mr Rush was asked about prominent Darlington businessmen and town councillors involved in the investment in the club. He replied "I am cutting my throat, so be careful how you use this information". He then admitted taking money out of the United Kingdom without clearance from the Bank of England.

Mr Connelly said Mr Rush took the money out of the United Kingdom via Southampton to Bilbao. The first amount of £1,375 left Southampton in February, 1973.

Mr Raymond Lightfoot, for the defence, said his client was a man of previous unblemished character with an excellent army record. He was duped by the business syndicate into smuggling the currency abroad.

The election that should never have been held

From Our Correspondent

Bridgwater
Sedgemoor, District Council, Somerset, posted notices of an election to fill a vacancy on North Petherton Town Council in good time and 653 electors turned out to vote.

That was last Thursday. Yesterday Mr Paul Stivadoros, a barrister and district secretary of Sedgemoor said the election should never have been held.

"There has apparently been a mistake", he said. "The town council should have cooped someone to fill the vacancy because legislation permitting the next elections does not come into force until next year."

UK food projects recommended for EEC grants

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

A total of 110 projects in farming and food processing have been recommended by United Kingdom departments for grants from the EEC under its 1974 programme. The full capital expenditure involved is £99m and grants may be up to a quarter.

The present applications include eight concerned with land drainage, six with agricultural cooperation, 13 with animal feed manufacture, 34 with food processing and 47 with fishing, fish production and processing.

Annan on Essex

A summary of the Annan report on Essex University is published today in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. There are also articles on university pensions, examinations, and South Africa, and a review by Bernard Crick of the new Tom Stoppard play *Travesties*.

If our past surprises you, our future will amaze you.



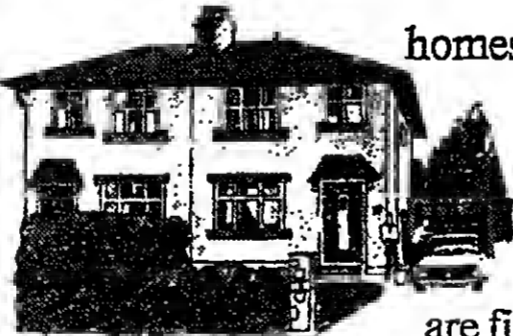
On 30 July, 1874, Parliament passed the Building Societies Act. It gave the building societies of this country a corporate existence.

And it gave this country nothing less than a social revolution.

One hundred years ago, home ownership was reserved for the very privileged few.

By the middle of the twentieth century, about a third of all dwellings in the United Kingdom were owner occupied.

Today, the figure is well over 50%. More than 9 million



homes owned by their occupiers. And more than 85% of the homes being bought on mortgage today are financed through a building society—half of them by first time purchasers.

With the help of the building societies, it's been a steady climb to more and more people owning their own homes.

Without the help of the building societies, it would have been impossible.

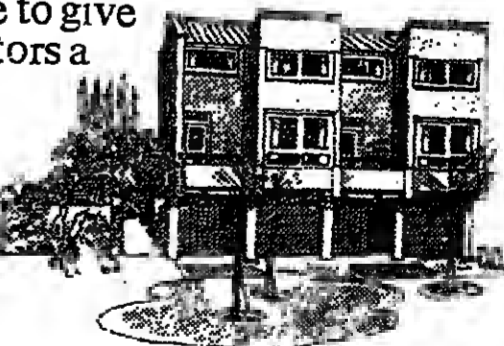
And what of the future? More of the same.

To continue the climb towards what the majority of people in this country want—more home ownership.

To continue to act as the best possible

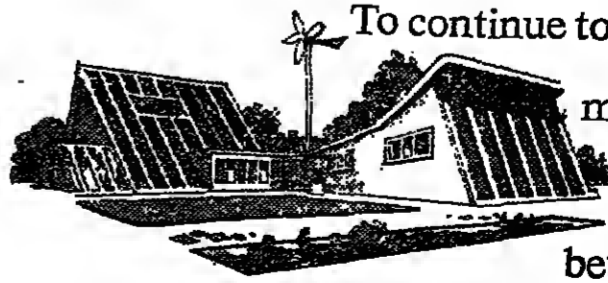
go-between for those who want to save money and those who want to borrow it.

To continue to give savers and investors a wide-range of savings plans, offering safety, security, liquidity and the best possible interest rates.



To continue to give home buyers the service, advice and guidance no other group or institution can match.

To continue to help more people buy more homes. And to continue to build a better Britain.



The Building Societies Association. Building a better Britain.

The Building Societies Association 14 Park Street London W1Y 4AL

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WEST EUROPE

Feelings high as Italy's doctors prepare to resist Bill to introduce national health service

From Peter Nichols Rome, Aug 1 The Government today presented to Parliament its Bill for setting up a National Health Service, as a violent quarrel between Government and official representatives of the medical profession reached the floor of the House.

A fortune lies in middle of the lake

From Alan McGregor Geneva, Aug 1 A Swedish businessman with a quick eye for legal lacunae is profitably exploiting a stretch of "international" water in the middle of Lake Constance.

French warders told to shoot at escapers

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Aug 1 M Michel Poniatowski, Minister of the Interior, has instructed prefects throughout the country to be utterly firm in repressing unrest in French prisons. Warders are to shoot at any prisoners attempting to escape, he has said.



Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, yesterday began his summer holiday at his country home at Brahmsch, northern Germany, by tackling the long grass in his garden.

How Arabs will use their surplus oil funds

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, August 1 After the decision on long-term cooperation by the European Community and the Arab countries yesterday, experts of both parties set to work this morning at the Quai d'Orsay to clear the ground for more specific talks in November.

M Chirac meets Danish critic of subsidies

From Our Correspondent Copenhagen, August 1 M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, was taken to task over French subsidies to cattle breeders during his talks with members of the Danish Government here today.

Switzerland to vote again on expelling foreigners

From Our Correspondent Geneva, August 1 The Swiss are once again to vote on the issue of reducing drastically the number of foreigners in the country—now about 16.7 per cent of the population of 6,435,000.

Pide agent on murder charge over sculptor

Lisbon, Aug 1—An agent of Portugal's disbanded secret police has been charged with the murder of a prominent Portuguese sculptor and communist militant in 1961.

Blaze kills 13 trapped inside Spanish jail

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Aug 1 A short circuit is reported to have caused a workshop fire in which 12 prisoners and a carpenter instructor died in a prison near Madrid yesterday.

Montedison 'political spy link'

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, August 1 The flow of allegations of the secret services gathering strength today with accusations that military counter-intelligence was regularly reporting on Italian politicians and other public figures to Signor Eugenio Cefis, chairman of Montedison.

Blaze kills 13 trapped inside Spanish jail

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Aug 1 A short circuit is reported to have caused a workshop fire in which 12 prisoners and a carpenter instructor died in a prison near Madrid yesterday.

"Bread is a good food and, in my opinion, we should be a healthier people if present trends were reversed and we began to eat more bread and less of other foods"

Who said that? An impoverished baker? An overweight jam-butter enthusiast? Neither. In fact, it was said recently at a nutrition conference in London by the eminent nutritionist, Dr. R. Passmore, Reader in Physiology, Edinburgh University, eminent medical author of the standard work, Human Nutrition and Dietetics.

How the Government uses its loaf Today's white loaf has been recognised by successive Governments as being vital to a nation's health. Since 1947, an independent Food Standards Committee, set up by the Government, and comprising eminent medical and scientific authorities, has regularly reviewed all the factors governing the composition of bread and flour, and sets strict standards.

Table with 7 columns: Food Item, Protein (gms), Calories, Calcium (mg), Iron (mg), Niacin (mg), Vitamin B1 (mg). Rows include 28 oz. white bread, 4.1 oz. stewing beef, 3.4 oz. roasting beef, 6.5 oz. cheddar cheese, 3.3 pt. milk, 10.0 oz. butter, 5.2 standard eggs, 4.4 oz. fresh haddock, 4.7 oz. cod, 5.1 oz. streaky bacon, 5 lb. 8 oz. potatoes, 1 pint draught beer.

Table with 2 columns: Nutrient, Percentage. Rows include Protein (17.0%), Calcium (13.4%), Iron (17.7%), Niacin (13.7%), Thiamine (22.1%), Energy value (14.4%).

What do you pay for what you get? In large population areas, the standard 28 oz. wrapped, sliced white loaf can normally be bought for 14p or less. To keep the price down to this level, bread has been subsidised since March. Before we decide what 14p means in terms of food value, it would be wise to consider just what that amount of money buys in other foods in nutritional terms.

OVERSEAS

Hundreds die as floods devastate homes and crops in Bangladesh

Dacca, Aug. 1.—The Bangladesh Army today launched a rescue operation to save many thousands of people marooned in the north-eastern area by floods which are thought to have already claimed 300 lives. Officials said over a million people were trapped in the Netrokooa district, where Moonsoon flood waters have entered almost every home. Many cattle and thatched homesteads have been swept away, and people are perched on trees and rooftops.

day put the cost of damage at £130m. Southern Bangladesh is also badly affected. One report said in the town of Habiganj was under several feet of water and 200 prisoners in the town jail and 100 hospital patients had been evacuated to safer areas. Meanwhile, the flood situation has worsened in Comilla, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Bogra, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Tangail and Noakhali. The situation was also deteriorating in Dacca where most of the low-lying areas and part of the main city were under water.

Peking's Army chief attacked in posters

Peking, Aug. 1.—Isolated wall posters attacking the commander of the Peking military region, a veteran general called Chen Hsi-lio, have appeared in the north-east city of Shenyang, reliable sources said today. Shenyang was General Chen's base for many years before he was transferred to the Peking command in a big military reshuffle at the new year.

General Chen has made frequent public appearances in the capital since then, and last night he attended an Army Day reception in the Great Hall of the People. The content of the posters attacking General Chen is not known but they are at present too few in number to be an important challenge to his position, observers said. General Chen's successor in Shenyang, Li Teh-sung, who is sixth in the Chinese hierarchy and senior to him, has been much more fiercely criticized in provincial wall posters.



Mr. Murali Aditya, aged 31, who has a cosmetics shop in Calcutta, has broken the world record for nail growing by three inches. The total length on his left hand is 55½ inches. They took 12 years to grow and are decorated with coloured polishes.

Exiled Thai leaders' £10m assets to be confiscated

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, Aug. 1

A Government crisis was averted today after acceptance by Mr Sanya Dbarmasakti, the Prime Minister, of a compromise which will enable him to confiscate the assets of the three exiled military leaders and their wives. But the former leaders will be allowed 60 days to claim any assets legitimately acquired. Before the Government could decide what to do with them, the National Assembly passed a Bill on July 18 which instructed the Prime Minister to confiscate them, by using his unconditional powers under Article 17 of the 1972 interim constitution.

Ethiopia forces hold ex-Premier and generals

Addis Ababa, Aug. 1.—The Ethiopian armed forces announced today they have taken Mr Endakachew Makonnen, the former Prime Minister, and nine other officials to an army camp.

The ex-Premier was understood to have been under house arrest since he was removed from office by the forces on July 22. He has apparently been taken to a different camp to the Army's 4th Division headquarters here, where some 85 other former ministers and government officials are being held pending investigations into charges of corruption and misuse of office while in power. Among the nine arrested today were Mr Abebe Retta, a Crown Councillor and one-time son-in-law of Emperor Haile Selassie, Major-General Aberra Wolde Mariam, former Chief of the Air Force, and Major-General Tadessa Melke, former commander of the 4th Division in Addis Ababa. The others arrested are understood to be high court judges.—Reuter.

Uganda puts armed forces at readiness

Kampala, Aug. 1.—Uganda has placed its armed forces on alert and summoned an emergency meeting of the Defence Council today, a military spokesman said. This followed the arrest of alleged Tanzanian spies along Uganda's southern border and added that the Defence Council had been summoned to take an appropriate decision on the situation.

Under these present conditions Uganda may be forced to extend the 12½ years' U.D. in the Kagera river if Tanzania continues with her violation of the Mogadishu and Addis Ababa agreements, the spokesman said. The Kagera river flows partly along the border between two countries but mainly through Tanzania, just south of the border. Under the Addis Ababa and Mogadishu agreements, Tanzania and Uganda settled the dispute which followed an attempt by Tanzanian supporters of Dr Milton Obote, the deposed Ugandan President, in September, 1972.

accusations of mounting subversive activities against this country but sources there reported that Tanzania's Army and Air Force had been placed on the alert.—Reuter.

Our Commonwealth staff writer, Mr E. L. Athyia, Uganda Minister of Commerce and Industry, called a press conference in London yesterday on his way to Uganda from Jamaica where he attended the EEC Associated Countries Conference.

He announced that the Uganda Government was awaiting a reply from the Foreign Office on their letter proposing a meeting on compensation for British owners of estates, which were sequestered by the Uganda Government two years ago.

The Foreign Office received this offer a month ago. Mr Athyia is not meeting any ministers in London, and leaves today.

Two years' work has been done on the valuation of properties owned by British Asians, Mr Athyia said, but owing to the difficulties of establishing precise legal ownership and identification of claimants, a further period will be needed before a valuation can be established for negotiation with the Foreign Office.

Mr Athyia restated the intention of the Uganda Government to abide by its undertaking to pay compensation for property left in Uganda by non-citizens.

Mr Athyia was unable to give any estimate of the scale of compensation offered in the Ugandan communication to the Foreign Office. He indicated that negotiations must ensue in Uganda.

In his statement Mr Athyia drew attention to the information available from Kenya and Tanzania, spies captured in Uganda that an invasion was being planned.

S Africa frees Liberal leader after 10 years

Pietermaritzburg, Aug. 1.—Mr Peter Brown, aged 49, former chairman of the now defunct Liberal Party of South Africa, was free today after being handed for 10 years.

Two successive banning orders of five years each expired at midnight and were not renewed. However, one restriction remains in that nothing Mr Brown says may be published in South Africa without the permission of the Minister of Justice. The banning orders, first issued in July, 1964, under the

Suppression of Communism Act, restricted Mr Brown to the white group area of Pietermaritzburg. He was forbidden to attend any gathering, was not allowed to teach or enter any school or university and had to report to the police once a week.

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, aged 56, wife of Mr Walter Sisulu, who is serving a life sentence on Robben Island off Cape Town, for sabotage, must spend from today a second five-year term under severe restriction.—Reuter.

Poor harvest forces India to buy more grain

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi, Aug. 1

India has signed contracts for the import of 1,800,000 metric tons of foodgrain during the present financial year, Mr M. C. Kaul, Secretary for Economic Affairs, told a press conference today. The cost was estimated at at least £113m. All the foodgrain contracted for last year, including a loan of two million metric tons of wheat from the Soviet Union, had already arrived and there was no spillover of last year's imports into this year, Mr Kaul said. The large volume of new imports reflects the very poor performance this year of the predominantly wheat "rabi" (spring) crop. By August 1 farmers had brought only 2,900,000 metric tons to market, compared with 4,300,000 metric tons by the same date last year. The outlook for the "kharif" (autumn) crop—mainly rice—is also uncertain.

August poll in Malaysia likely to be peaceful

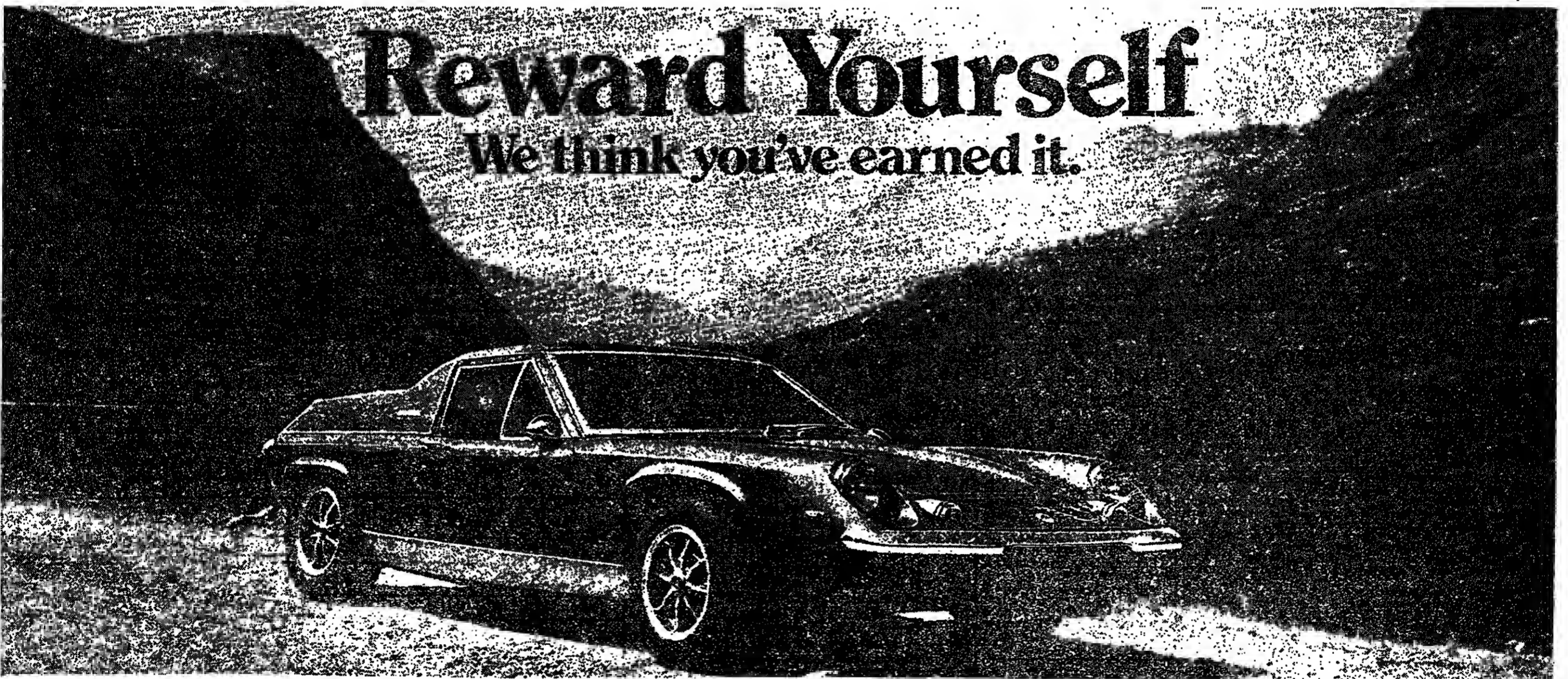
Kuala Lumpur, Aug. 1.—Malaysia goes to the polls on August 24, almost 18 months earlier than planned, in elect a new Parliament and almost certainly give Mr Tun Abdul Razak's nine-party National Front coalition Government a fresh five-year mandate.

Slightly more than four million people, or about 30 per cent of the country's multiracial population, are eligible to vote. At stake is the election of the fourth since independence in 1957, are 154 parliamentary and 359 state assembly seats. The dates for nomination (August 8) and polling (August 24) were fixed today after the dissolution of the old 144-seat Parliament which was overwhelmingly controlled by the National Front. The short campaign period and constitutional restraints prohibiting discussion of "sensitive issues" should prevent a repetition of the racial riots which marred the last elections in May, 1969.—Reuter.

Baby boy born in airliner

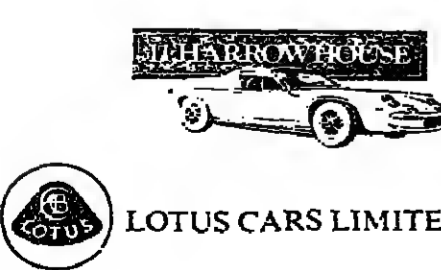
Sydney, Aug. 1.—A baby born in a jumbo jet airliner above Australia's north-west coast today received a round-the-world air ticket to "revisit his birthplace" from the airline.

The baby boy was born to 21-year-old Mrs Jutta Tomiolla, of Melbourne, on a flight from London to Sydney. He was delivered by two doctors and a nurse who were travelling on the flight.—Reuter.



As expected, this is turning out to be a most unpleasant year. Well here is the car that is almost exactly one hundred per cent out of step with these stern times. It just doesn't fit the miserable spirit of today. The Europa cannot carry filing cabinets or lawnmowers, it has no room for jolly family outings. It costs quite a lot of money and gives only two things in return — Invariable pleasure; Occasional bliss.

It gives invariable pleasure by being beautiful, unusual, prestigious and alive. You provide the driving bliss. 126 bhp from a centrally placed engine — perfect balance — crispness, lightness. Authenticity. The Lotus Europa Special. Something for yourself and only one other person. A reward you have already earned — and are well advised to collect immediately or sooner. Ask for a test drive today.



The Lotus Europa Special was chosen by 20th Century-Fox as the 'escape' car in the film '11 Harrow House'. See it and watch a Europa Special in action.

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سكندر الجليل

Who really speaks for Britain?

The present Government is planning to introduce State control and ownership of many large British companies.

But what do the people think?

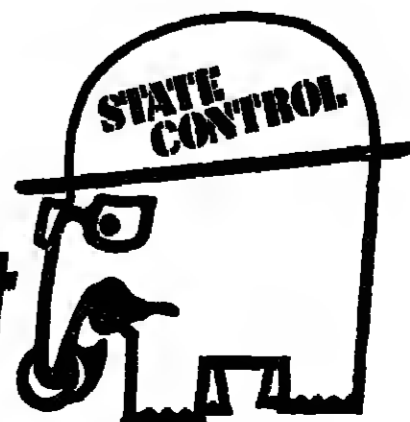
The majority of British voters reject Labour plans. Only 15% approve. Here are the 'no's':

90% of Conservative votes	NO
77% of Liberal votes	NO
48% of Labour votes (only 30% approve)	NO
NOP check: carried out July 1974	

Nationalization and State control of many of our big companies would endanger our living standards. The public understand this. If the Labour Government

is sold on referenda, then why not hold one on this issue?

Say 'NO' to the Elephant



OVERSEAS

Mr Nixon stays on to await vindication by impeachment process

From Fred Emery Washington, August 1 President Nixon today had his spokesmen repeat that he would not resign, but would press on through the "constitutional process" of impeachment.

The President remained confident, it was said, that the result would be "vindication", a clear sign that he has abandoned his professed confidence that the full House would not impeach, and resting his hopes on acquittal after trial by the Senate.

Mr Gerald Warren, deputy press secretary, refused to stand by earlier statements of full confidence in the House expressed by his now silent superior, Mr Ziegler.

The official shift, and angry refusal by Mr Warren to discuss publicly the President's strategy, came amid signs of disarray among Mr Nixon's advisers.

The President was described privately by one as "completely withdrawn", listening disinterestedly to the President's strategy, came amid signs of disarray among Mr Nixon's advisers.

There can be no discussion of strategy, it is said, because no one, not General Haig, nor Mr Ziegler nor Mr St Clair, really knows what the President is thinking.

What is clear, and admitted by those not far from the centre, is that colossal miscalculations have been made, that the President and his men have fed to each other wishful appraisals, and believed the avalanche they could see and hear was not really rolling straight for the Oval Office.

By saying often enough that President Nixon was indispensable for world peace, General Haig is seen to have come to believe it, and finds the Congressional momentum incomprehensible.

It was, and still is believed, that impeachment is being urged by the President's enemies somehow to "reverse" the election mandate, surely, his men and he kept telling one another, their friends to Con-

gress could see that as well as they did. The idea that Congressmen might be impressed and soothed by the evidence, seems only now, too late, to be understood, as there is reason to believe, then this appreciation infers Mr Nixon's reactions to be unpredictable, and grabbing at straws.

Yesterday's idea of "instant impeachment" and of getting straight to a Senate trial, was sunk and ruefully withdrawn within hours of being floated.

Mr Patrick Buchanan and Mr Warren admitted it was under consideration and that it was lost without trace.

The deep White House fear is over what the Republican conservatives will next come up with. Senator Barry Goldwater last night suggested the President should appear before both Houses and simply answer questions.

There has been no public response, but the senator has been known to suggest there is no obstacle to the President appearing on his own behalf at his trial.

Other important men from Arizona is Representative John Rhodes, Republican leader in the House. He has announced a press conference for Monday. There is intense speculation whether he will come out for impeachment.

On the Democratic side, in an obvious effort to hasten the end of the ordeal, Senator Henry Jackson has precipitated a public controversy over whether the Senate trial would have to begin anew when the newly-elected senators are sworn in next January.

Mr Jackson thinks "there is no question that a new trial would be important. In fact, he would have little say, since the undoubted majority believe the Senate is a continuing body". But he has raised the issue to try to force a faster pace.

At the end of perhaps the worst of Mr Nixon's many unhappy weeks, the Harris Poll brought some solace. It reported that in July his "positive rating in the sample rose by three points to 29 per cent. This was in conflict with Gallup.

Makarios anxiety made clear in London

By A. M. Rendel, Diplomatic Correspondent Mr James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, met Archbishop Makarios at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for about 35 minutes yesterday afternoon, amid reports of serious violations of the Geneva ceasefire agreement by the Turks. Later, Mr Callaghan also saw Mr Lunikov, the Soviet Ambassador.

The reports of Turkish breaches considered with Archbishop Makarios are understood to have included the attacks on two villages yesterday; the refusal, in effect, of the Turkish commander of the Greek Cypriot police force to countenance the continued presence of detachments of the United Nations Force inside the zone, in spite of strong appeals by Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations; and the failure of the Turks to appoint a Turkish officer to join British, Greek and United Nations representatives to delineate the ceasefire line and buffer zone along it, as agreed.

It is clear that much of the meeting was taken up with a sharp denunciation by the Archbishop of the incompleteness of the ceasefire agreement and of Turkish violations of it and an urgent appeal to the British Government as guarantors of the Cyprus settlement of 1960 to use their influence to the utmost to see that the Turkish Government stuck to their word and stopped fighting—which, from the Greek and Greek Cypriot point of view, was the main gain on the Geneva negotiations.

There has also been speculation that Turkey would be merged into larger units for security reasons.

Turkey has complained to the United Nations that the civilians have been herded together in football stadiums without proper protection from the sun. "This is still a pressing topic", the Prime Minister told reporters.

Geneva, Aug. 1.—The first wounded soldiers evacuated from Cyprus under Red Cross auspices were flown to Athens today, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Badly wounded Greek Cypriots were on board the aircraft which took off from the British base at Akrotiri. They were taken to Athens because medical facilities there are better than in Cyprus.—Reuter.

Observers expect Turkey to press for a federal system with limited autonomy for each community. There has also been speculation that Turkey would be merged into larger units for security reasons.

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Mr Denktash to help draft Ankara plan

Ankara, August 1.—Mr Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, is expected in Ankara within a few days to help to prepare a Turkish plan for the political future of Cyprus, informed sources said today.

Government leaders will probably start discussions tomorrow on a plan to be presented to the second phase of the Cyprus peace conference in Geneva next week.

So far, Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Prime Minister, has declined to discuss Turkish proposals, except to say that they will include demands for "water-tight guarantees" for the security of the Turkish minority in the island.

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Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, who returned from Geneva on Wednesday, greeting Archbishop Makarios yesterday for discussions in London.

After leaving, Archbishop Makarios said that Mr Callaghan had briefed him on the talks in Geneva and they had had a useful exchange of views, but he added: "I cannot be satisfied with the whole content of the agreement. What upset me most, however, is the fact that 24 hours after the agreement, the Turks shelled and captured two large Greek villages and caused many casualties.

It is obvious that Turkey does not only affront the United Nations and world public opinion but it does not honour even its own word. Unless the Turks withdraw from these two villages, I wonder whether the resumption of the talks on August 8, with the participation of Cyprus, would be advisable.

Archbishop Makarios is also known to be critical of the omission in the Geneva agreement of provision for the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops in Cyprus not authorized by international agreements to be there. It was his demand to the Greek junta to withdraw the Greek officers commanding the Greek Cypriot National Guard which precipitated the crisis, and naturally he wants the Turkish invading troops withdrawn also at the earliest possible moment.

Mr Callaghan made it clear that he had emphasized at his press conference that it was the best that could be achieved at the time and something upon which to build.

Mr Callaghan also explained that he had already made urgent representations in Ankara about the ceasefire violations, and urged the Turkish Government to cooperate with delineating the ceasefire line. A British helicopter he said had been set aside; a British officer is waiting and the job was urgent. The Turkish Government ought now to appoint their representative.

Archbishop Makarios also indicated to Mr Callaghan that he would not be attending the next Geneva conference and Mr Callaghan made it clear that the British Government would accept the person or persons nominated by the people of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, being still the Cypriot head of state, may well not wish to attend the conference in circumstances which could be humiliating and his presence clearly could create controversy in Cyprus—and some antagonism among the Turks—at a time when a calm approach is most of all required.

Those near Archbishop Makarios say that he now intends to remain in the United Kingdom until the outcome of the conference on August 8 is clearer than now. He may later on as head of state decide to seek to address the General Assembly but a suggestion that he might become the next Cypriot permanent representative to the United Nations is scouted on all sides.

Reuter's Secretary-General to take appropriate action in the light of his statement and to present a full report to the Council, taking into account that the ceasefire will be the first step to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, 333 (1974) of 20 July 1974, and 354 (1974) of 23 July 1974. Noting that all states have declared their respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus, taking note of the Secretary-General's statement made at the 1,788th meeting of the Security Council.

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Turks establish buffer zones by shelling villages in Cyprus

Continued from page 1 Turkish positions. Only the hedged National Guard defenders stand between the Turkish front and the so-called Greek road.

When the United Nations arrived at Vasilias there was spruced machinegun fire and the sound of mortar shells. The area to the south and the east. Apart from youthful National Guardsmen, the only people there were an octogenarian couple sitting by the village spring.

A British officer commanding the British force tried to establish contact with a National Guardsman where the nearest Turkish positions were. The guardsman, who like his comrades was in his early twenties, said: "I wish I could tell you. We have orders to defend from this position. The Turks opened fire yesterday and have pushed forward. We do not know where they are. If I knew I would tell you."

All of the Greek Cypriot soldiers were red-eyed and obviously weary. They had been battling the Turks—against overwhelming odds—since the invasion began. Four of them had recently finished their studies abroad. Those who had been in Britain reeled off a string of familiar names and places.

In Larnaca Laphou National Guardsmen had been coming under Turkish artillery and mortar fire for the previous six hours. As I arrived in the village shells exploded round its perimeter. However, there was still fight in the Greek defenders. With guns and mortars they, in turn, pounded the two positions on the mountain-

side from which the Turks were directing their fire. The Greek Cypriots are outnumbered and outnumbered a British soldier with the United Nations said. "But they have guts. In anyone's book they should have been finished off long ago, but they go on fighting. With all they have, the Turks should have rolled across the island."

Although the Turks have made few territorial gains since the ceasefire deadline they are effectively creating buffer zones. The terrified inhabitants of the villages on the western and eastern edges of the Kyrenia range have fled to safety.

When news of the Geneva ceasefire agreement reached the island people began pouring back to their villages. The first sounds of battle sent them packing.

Seated next to him was Dr Waldheim, so confident of positive action at today's session that he had earlier booked an evening flight to Lisbon to discuss Portugal's African territories.—Reuter.

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UN force gets green light for Cyprus task

New York, Aug. 1.—The Security Council today authorized the United Nations peace-keeping force in Cyprus to undertake new duties laid down in the Geneva ceasefire agreement.

The vote was 12 in favour with none against. The Soviet Union and Byelorussia abstained. China did not take part in the vote.

Fewer than 24 hours earlier, Mr Jacob Malik, the Soviet Representative, vetoed a similar resolution, complaining he had not had enough time to receive instructions from Moscow.

Mr Malik was in the chair today, having taken over the Council presidency for August shortly after returning from home leave last night.

Under the Geneva agreement signed on Tuesday by the Foreign Ministers of Greece, Turkey and Britain, the United Nations' force will patrol a buffer zone between the Turkish Army and the Cyprus National Guard. It will police villages with both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The force is expected to reach a strength of 4,443 by August 12 when all reinforcements pledged by member states arrive. It is made up of soldiers, or civilian police, from Australia, Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.

The Security Council recalled its resolutions 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, 333 (1974) of 20 July 1974, and 354 (1974) of 23 July 1974. Noting that all states have declared their respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus, taking note of the Secretary-General's statement made at the 1,788th meeting of the Security Council.

Reuter's Secretary-General to take appropriate action in the light of his statement and to present a full report to the Council, taking into account that the ceasefire will be the first step to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, 333 (1974) of 20 July 1974, and 354 (1974) of 23 July 1974. Noting that all states have declared their respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus, taking note of the Secretary-General's statement made at the 1,788th meeting of the Security Council.

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SPORT

A fit and hostile Lever shows enough pace for a trip to Australia

By John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent. HEADLINE: Lancashire beat Yorkshire by 32 runs. In Yorkshire they had been bowled faster than any other team...

Scorecard table for Lancashire vs Yorkshire. Columns include batsman names, runs, and bowlers. Total runs: 205.



Clive Lloyd... the commanding figure of the Lancashire innings.

Stevenson and Oldham were bang in the picture. After scouring the country a fortnight ago when the North and Hutton were in the picture...

Rowing British coxed four defeat Russians

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent. The British under-21 tennis championships, inaugurated in 1962, cannot survive in their present form...

lines up alongside Belgium, Sweden and Canada with the first three gaining a place in the semi-final round. A glance at the comparative performances of these four crews...

Tennis Extinction ahead of under-21 event

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent. The British under-21 tennis championships, inaugurated in 1962, cannot survive in their present form...

Worcestershire survive an onslaught by Sobers

Worcestershire weathered the full force of a magnificent fight back by Nottinghamshire, through Sobers to win their match in the quarter-final of the Gillette Cup...

Hanley gains confidence after early success

EASTBOURNE: D. H. Robins XI, with nine second innings wickets in hand, lead the Pakistanis by 243 runs. To break the record set in 1959 at Blackpool by Jim Stewart of Warwickshire...

Shaw jumping Jenkins catches up with his American reputation

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris. Rodney Jenkins, aged 30, the American professional rider, was preceded by a reputation which far eclipsed his performance in the men's world championship...

Davis Cup tie may hinge on form of Nastase

Mestre, August 1.—Italy meet Romania in the European zone tennis tournament here tomorrow and the result is likely to depend on the form of Ilie Nastase...

Kent drawn at home again

Kent, who beat Leicestershire at Canterbury on Wednesday, have been rewarded with yet another same match in the semi-final round of the Gillette Cup...

England Youth XI v Indies Youth XI

ENGLAND: Young Cricketers. First Innings: 1. B. Roberts, 2. K. Walters, 3. J. H. Doolittle, 4. G. S. Sobers, 5. G. Turner, 6. G. S. Sobers, 7. G. Turner, 8. G. S. Sobers, 9. G. Turner, 10. G. S. Sobers...

Minor Counties

NORWICH: Buckinghamshire, 99-10. Bedfordshire, 100-10. Berkshire, 100-10. Devon, 100-10. Dorset, 100-10. Gloucestershire, 100-10. Hampshire, 100-10. Herefordshire, 100-10. Kent, 100-10. Lancashire, 100-10. Leicestershire, 100-10. Lincolnshire, 100-10. Middlesex, 100-10. Northamptonshire, 100-10. Northumberland, 100-10. Nottinghamshire, 100-10. Oxfordshire, 100-10. Somerset, 100-10. Staffordshire, 100-10. Surrey, 100-10. Warwickshire, 100-10. Wiltshire, 100-10. Worcestershire, 100-10. Yorkshire, 100-10.

Services tennis results yesterday

WINBLEBON: Royal Navy championships. Men's singles: Fourth round: Capt. I. Butler (Royal Signals) beat Major R. B. Reeves (RAFEC) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. Fifth round: Capt. I. Butler beat Major R. B. Reeves 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Wilkins has a commanding points lead in Tempests

John Nicholls sailing three races that he called yesterday, David Wilkins, the Irish Olympic star, and crew, Derek Lago, have established a commanding points lead in the Tempest class national championship at Ulster. With last race in a series of seven to be sailed today, their total already unbeatable. They have finished lower than third in three races...

Too late to sail when the wind began to blow

Plans by the race committee to get in two races in the Cherub world dinghy championship at Torquay yesterday were foiled by the wind. They had hoped to make up for Wednesday's controversial contest which was abandoned. The forecast was good and the racing began an hour earlier, but the wind was almost non-existent for the first two rounds. By the time it did begin to blow it was too late to get in a second race.

Clough secures services of former colleague

Brian Clough, who took over his new job as manager of Leeds United on Wednesday, made his first acquisition yesterday when he persuaded Jimmy Gordon, of Derby County, to join him as a trainer/coach. Gordon will replace Leslie Cocker, who has announced his departure from Leeds to become the right-hand man of the club's former manager, Don Revie, now England's manager.

Pollard leads by one stroke after round of 68

Krefeld, Aug 1.—The British Ryder Cup player Eddie Pollard, had a four-under-par score of 68 to take a one-stroke lead in the first round of the £17,500 West German Open golf championship here today. Sharing second place on 69 were, Simon Dunlop, the South African Dale Hayes, Angel Gallardo, of Spain, and Arnold O'Connor, of Ireland.

Football

Luton Town's new signing, Adrian Alston, who played for Australia in the World Cup, arrived in London yesterday and will meet his new team-mates for the first time today.

Polo

Malden's best Polo Cottage 4-2. The British women's amateur polo championship, which starts tomorrow at the San Francisco Club.

Golf

San Francisco, Aug 1.—The United States Golfing Association's strongest teams are favored to gain their eighth successive victory over Britain and Ireland in the Curtis Cup women's golf competition which starts tomorrow at the San Francisco Club.

Quick surprises

fan Quick, a 31-year-old amateur who plays off a one handicap at the on-sea, took a surprise lead in the Essex Open golf championship, sponsored by the East Anglian Daily Times. At Alderbury yesterday, Quick set a new amateur course record with a one-under-par round of 67 to take a one-stroke lead over the Essex professionals, Richard Davies and Harry Flanagan.

Appointments Vacant also on page 11

GENERAL VACANCIES

PERSONNEL/TRAINING MANAGER

to be responsible for manpower planning and recruitment. Identifying the training needs of sales/administrative staff, warehouse and drivers. Develop and maintain personnel policies including coordination of training, staff appraisal and salary administration.

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is a sound, medium-size company in a competitive field. Although best known in the rubber and fittings industry, it has an expanding product range which stems from its membership of a large industrial group.

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should be over 30 years of age, preferably a member of I.P.M., with at least five years' experience in personnel/training. A person capable of moulding a real management contribution to the commercial success of the company.

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The salary will be negotiable and reflect both the responsibilities of the position and the potential of the applicant. There is a contributory pension scheme with free life assurance.

HOW TO APPLY

Write to Mr. F. H. Hardy, Director, Operations, GEORGE FISCHER SALES LIMITED, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London, N1 7EE. Telephone: 01-253 1044

R.A.F. MUSEUM RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

... for four new posts—three at the R.A.F. Museum, and one at Cardington, Beds.

AIRCRAFT AND AVIATION RECORDS DEPARTMENT (HENDON)

to work on the Museum's series of publications and the Aircraft Department's catalogue of buildings. Ability to write competently and accurately on the technical/historical aspects of aviation essential.

EDUCATION OFFICER (HENDON)

to organize and develop the educational services of the Museum, and to establish contact with schools and colleges. Degree, or equivalent qualification, and a facility for communication essential.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS (HENDON)

to devise special exhibitions, bringing together items for display, and to write catalogues. Degree, or equivalent qualification, and ability to write fluently essential.

RESERVE COLLECTION (CAROLINGTON)

to participate in the general management of administering the Reserve Collection with particular reference to the identification and registration of acquisitions. Special interest in, or willingness to acquire knowledge of, aviation use and application of radio and radar equipment essential.

Salary: R.A. Grade I, over £2,400-over £3,050. R.A. Grade II, over £1,600-over £2,500. £110 less for the Cardington post. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Level of appointment according to age, qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 27 August, 1974) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke 2022, ext. 500, or London 01-839 1992 (24 hour answering service), quoting G(Y) 382.

GRANADA TELEVISION

is looking for a boy aged between 7 and 10 to play a leading part in a television play on film. The character is that of an extremely good looking, articulate, charming, boy of about 7 who becomes the great confidant of his governess. Previous professional experience unnecessary. Photographs and enquiries in writing only please to:

Casting Department, Granada Television Ltd, 36 Colindale Avenue, London, W11.

ART EDITOR

wanted for the Technical Encyclopaedia "HOW IT WORKS". Applicants should have experience of design and illustration and be used to weekly deadlines.

Antitude for planning technical diagrams an advantage. Please telephone RALPH HANCOCK, 01-566 1074, ext. 10

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£1,700-£2,000 p.a. An experienced cook is required for the Press and to prepare meals for directors and executives. The work is very varied and exciting. Friday, four weeks annual holiday, four weeks annual insurance scheme.

Apply in first instance to: The Press Association, 11, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-481 2511.

ORGANISING SECRETARY

Required for Voluntary Service Organisation in the West Midlands. Must carry revised civil service or previous professional experience in recruitment, publicity, and administration. Further particulars from Secretary, Voluntary Service Council of Social Services, 100, Cannon Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Europe, N. & S. America, Africa, Australasia, etc. Full-time permanent/seasonal in the hotel and tourist industry. Write to International Employment, 25, King's Road, SW3 4RP.

LIBRARIAN—recently chartered, required by specialist professional library in recreation and health. Full-time. Details to Box 1954 D, The Times.

ARCHITECTURAL OR ENGINEER

with experience in the design of areas of U.K. to undertake a survey of Great Britain. Interview. Box 1957 D, The Times.

MALE TEACHER—A career in educational administration. Salary up to £2,500. London based. Tel: 01-253 1044.

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community and international development needs. Small team in membership and public relations. Good conditions. Flexible hours. Tel: 01-253 1044.

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RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

A post-doctoral biochemist is required to work under the supervision of Dr. J. H. Drenth at the research project supported by the Cancer Research Campaign. Training, scientific factors, and laboratory facilities are available. For one year initially from October 1st, at a salary of £2,115 p.a. Those who are already qualified need not re-apply. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL. Quota Ref.: 107/74, T.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

University of Manchester DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

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WORKING HOLIDAY on N. Devon

intended to young men—£500-£551.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR/LEGAL EXECUTIVE

experienced in probate required by Guildford Solicitors. Good salary. Box 0986 O, The Times.

ALANCAIN LEGAL STAFF

many years' experience of dealing with major firms of solicitors in London and the U.K. enabling us to give a minimum of 10 years' service to all solicitors and other legal firms outside clerks to partners looking for careers in law. For a confidential telephone call, or write to Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Robinson, 100-102, 7/21 at Great Queen Street, W.C.2.

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR, male or female, south coast. See £4,000 plus appointments, today.

CLAYTON LEWIS Division offer a wide range of careers. Appointments will be placed to those who are qualified legal staff consisting of personal career prospects in the City, or in the Law Society, or in the Law Society's own legal staff. Tel: 01-253 1044. High Return.

MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE

SALES/MARKETING MANAGER, ex-regular Army, with particular experience in the sale of E.P. associations, seeks a position of responsibility in a well-known, Resident London. Box 1233 G, The Times.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES ARTICLED CLERK

Applications are invited from Law Graduates, or those who expect to take the examination in February, 1975 for the above appointment. The successful applicant will be able to obtain all round legal experience in a progressive, Metropolitan Authority. Salary will be placed to those who are qualified legal staff consisting of personal career prospects in the City, or in the Law Society, or in the Law Society's own legal staff. Tel: 01-253 1044. High Return.

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exists for an energetic man possibly aged 30/40 with sales and trading ability. Also able to undertake full management, commercial and financial responsibilities of small expanding chemicals firm active in both UK and international business.

Possibility of future board appointment. We are looking for competence, judgment, broad outlook, awareness of limitations coupled with steady drive and good contacts in the chemical using industries. Write full details Managing Director D. G. BENNETT CHEMICALS LTD., York Road, Wimbledon SW19 5UB

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CO-ORDINATOR FOR BANGLA DESH AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION PROGRAMME

This is a minimum 6 month appointment to be taken up as quickly as possible. Applications to be received by August 15th at the latest.

DUTIES: To take charge of Agricultural Mechanisation Programme, liaising with the Bangla Desh Government to develop a technical training scheme.

The successful applicant may in due course be able to apply to the relevant authority for his period of service to be extended with the training programme.

QUALIFICATIONS: An Agricultural Engineer with overseas, administrative and training knowledge and experience is sought.

SALARY: Negotiable but will be in accord with British Government scales.

Apply in writing to the Chairman, CONSORTIUM OF BRITISH CHARITIES, C/O 461 CANNON ROAD, LONDON N7 9BE.

TRINITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE

The college proposes to appoint DEAN

to take office on 1 January, 1975, or as soon as possible thereafter. The person appointed will become a Fellow of the College and thereby a member of its Governing Body.

The successful applicant, who should be an ordained member of the Church of England, will be required to undertake pastoral work amongst all members of the College and to conduct daily services. In the College Chapel, he should be a graduate who can undertake some undergraduate teaching preferably in Theology.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Senior Tutor to whom applications should be sent not later than 15th September, 1974.

University College Cardiff

Applications are invited for the following vacancy: JUNIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

In the Committee Section of the University of Cardiff, the following vacancy exists: JUNIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. The successful applicant will be required to undertake clerical and administrative duties in the Committee Section. The successful applicant will be required to undertake clerical and administrative duties in the Committee Section. The successful applicant will be required to undertake clerical and administrative duties in the Committee Section.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be forwarded to the Senior Tutor, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, CB2 3RQ. Applications should be sent not later than 15th September, 1974.

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SOCIAL WORK

C.C.E.T.S.W. is a statutory but independent body, responsible for the promotion and recognition of training courses for social workers, throughout the United Kingdom, in universities and colleges of further education.

Following re-organisation of the administrative structure, the Council invites applications from men or women with experience of administration in a professional organisation, or in higher education for the post of Registrar.

The Registrar will act as chief administrative officer to the Council and be responsible for the direction of its general administrative support services, arrangements for the award of qualifications to students and other matters arising from the Council's statutory responsibilities.

In co-operation with the Finance officer, the Registrar will be responsible for forecasting the Council's financial requirements.

The appointment is within the same salary grade as the four Assistant Directors, and the Registrar will work as one of the Senior staff team at the Council's central office. The closing date for completed applications is September 16, 1974 and interviews will start in the week beginning September 23, 1974.

Further details and application forms from: The Director Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work Clifton House Euston Road London NW1 2RS.

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The appointee will report directly to the General Manager and be responsible for the control of operations at all mine sites and the port facility, together with all ancillary functions, such as production and mining planning, safety and training, etc.

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PAGE 11

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Ugly strains of nationalism that lie below the Soviet surface

If nationalism were not the strongest acid attacking the Soviet regime's iron, speculation about its fresh strength would smack of White émigré's café plans for returning upon the Bolshevik clique's fall.

But in fact, national feeling—among Ukrainians, Estonians, Cossacks, Tajiks and many other minorities—bubbles and boils in the Soviet "family of nations". Just as the trouble in Moscow black-market currency transactions fluctuates in tight step with the quotations of Zurich banks, the aspirations and resentments of the Soviet empire's non-Russian peoples have swelled in proportion to those of Third World Nations.

The Curtain, that is to say, is porous to these calculations and emotions. Scorching winds of native patriotism blow up since the Second World War through it. But perhaps such metaphors are misleading, for on that side, love of country—not of the union of socialist republics—formed in 1924 and enlarged by subsequent aggression, but of ancient homelands—needed no outside encouragement. All the conditions that have made old-fashioned nationalism, among the most powerful of modern forces, operate in high gear there. The much more severe penalties for expressing such instincts only increase the commitment, bitterness and potential for explosion.

But, as in other aspects of Soviet life, repression not only stimulates noble ideals and heroic deeds in its finest victims, it also provokes what can only be called the worst elements to think and mutter their unlovely thoughts.

From New Printing House Square, minority nationalism is the most promising agent for the empire's disintegration.

But in the Soviet Union itself, nationalism is often startlingly different: evil jokes, drunken obscenities of one race

cursing another, raised rancour and fists. A Georgian entrepreneur reviling an Armenian engineer, a Latvian lorry driver scorning the Ukrainian khaki, buddled, Uzbekes nouncing their superiority over lesser Central Asian tribes—and Tartars their over the Uzbeks. A reservoir of bigotry and misdirected grievances.

This is why Mr Bernard Levin's description of national sentiment as "heating" and "salutary", let alone his gratification that the problem may soon become more important than America's racial one, is perniciously misleading, for all his admirable intention.

Months before the publication of Andrei Amalrik's *Will The Soviet Union Survive*, the most politically perceptive Muscovite I knew also spoke of the real danger of war with China. Defeat or difficulties might be the spark to ignite the magazines of non-Russian nationalism, he said—but in his prediction, this would lead to nothing beneficial, but to a grisly new time of troubles.

Thirty major peoples will be at each other's throats. All will bear the Jews, meaning anyone not 'one of us'. Two hundred-and-fifty million people lashing out after release from their totalitarian swaddling will produce a uglier, viler, more nightmarish, unrecognizable, horrible, terrible, unimaginable.

This is mere supposition of course, but it raises questions that deserve consideration before tossing flowers at disrupting forces—even disrupting Soviet rule. However, odious the tyranny, potentially uglier strains of obscurantism and hatred lurk below its surface. However uncomfortable the notion, some of the progressive and civilizing influences in Soviet life, as well as many of the savage, abominable ones, come from the centre. Not all the restraints are sinister.

And this leaves out Great

Russian nationalism. Almost by definition, patriotic sentiment among the minorities incorporates deep resentment, sometimes loathing, of the Moscow colonizers. In free expression of this were encouraged, one picture not only whipped-up boogymen mistreating Russian residents in cities from Riga to Tbilisi, but also a violent backlash in Mother Russia against the "foreigners".

Many decent Russians feel that they hear disproportionate sacrifices for the sake of backward Soviet peoples. Many less decent ones simply hate Armenians and Jews, in the spirit of Black Hundred prejudice and pogroms.

No way out of a dictatorship is easy when its citizens can be as easily confused, swayed by demagoguery and goaded to violence as the Soviet peoples. But even to suggest a remedy of nationalism, here so mingled with virulent chauvinism and jingoism, without warning of its possible side effects is an act of some irresponsibility.

As the British press's most eloquent prosecutor of Soviet crimes, Mr Levin bears a special responsibility in any case. He who never tires of reminding the West of its duty in helping bring down the dictatorship might spare some thought to his own obligation in picture Russia after the fall. Otherwise, his sense of outrage at Kremlin evil, however justified in itself, is too much like the radicals' call for capitalism's downfall, which pretends that some shining substitute system will sprout by itself from the ruins.

So many well-intended mistakes in our prescriptions for Russia, so many exhortations to correct injustices with what turn out to be greater ones! One would think Western commentators had developed some caution. But propagandists keep shouting.

The art market, at long last, has gone off the boil. How seriously steam is escaping is hopelessly difficult to say—the major change has only come in the past two months.

But Christie's and Sotheby's annual turnover figures, out today, provide some statistical background to the slowdown of the past year. It must be born in mind that both companies are in full flood of a world-wide expansion.

Sotheby's has reported a world-wide turnover of £90.3m, 26 per cent more than last year; Christie's is 30 per cent up at £44.3m. Last year both companies reported a 70 per cent increase in turnover.

You may well ask what on earth is wrong with a 30 per cent rise. It is, indeed, a perfectly healthy trading record for the companies concerned. But looking at it from the point of view of art prices the picture is less buoyant. The increase is compounded of a rise in the volume of sales, together with a rise in prices, compared with 1972-73 which ended fairly sharply in December. Since then prices have slumped and in some fields fallen back.

Last Christmas Sotheby's and Christie's reported that their autumn turnover were 50 and 52 per cent up on the preceding year. The second half of the year has substantially cut back this percentage.

The accompanying table shows the figures for the two halves of the year separately as well as the overall figure, with Sotheby's American operations showing no change in turnover for January to July compared with the year before.

That this should be the worst of it is itself pretty good—and shows that the art market is by no means collapsing. But so much has happened over the past year that these overall figures are compounded of a web of contradictory trends.

As the season opened in October the boom that had started in that month in 1972 was still in full swing. There



Middle East to the rescue—a Persian portrait, sold for £150,000 at Christie's.

was a strong investment emphasis to this boom but it spread from top to bottom of the market and affected virtually every collecting field. Then came the Middle East war and the oil crisis; for about three weeks in

December and again in the minor sales of January and February, prices appeared more or less as healthy as ever. It was with the important spring sales in March that it began to become clear that the boom was over. Prices were not falling much below expectations but they almost never got beyond them.

This state of affairs continued to about June when the high summer season again concentrated attention on the auction rooms. The run of major works of art which have failed to find buyers at Sotheby's and Christie's over the past few weeks tells its own story. In many cases there were special reasons—questions of quality or condition, or simply that the item had been too recently on the market; it was a sign nevertheless of much more selective buying and generally weaker prices.

There is one particular feature of the down-turn in prices which has taken most people by surprise. This is the simple fact that the most expensive end of the market has been much more affected than the lower reaches. This cuts plumb across normal auction theory, namely that in times of economic stress there are always buyers for the particularly rare or distinguished, but dealers are less willing to mop up the junk than they used to be. This is a direct reflection of the investment invasion of the art market. Investors have been lectured on the necessity of buying

"quality" which will always hold its own, and such items have the double attraction to them of high unit value which made them much easier to invest large sums.

The purveyors of art were, in doubt, not always over-scrupulous about what exactly "quality" was where the investor was not capable of recognizing it for himself. This makes it only too natural that the top end of the market should suffer when the investors draw in their horns.

That the lower end of the market is still much stronger than the top is underlined by the smaller auction houses, Bonham's and Phillips, who have increased their turnover this year by 47 and 44 per cent respectively. Ar prices below £1,000 or at least below £500 there are a vast number of people around who are prepared to buy what they like for the fun of it, treating the concept that it is a wise way of investing their money as a secondary consideration.

So what of the future? There seems to me one million dollar question: how important is the investment motivation being in creating the price spiral of the past few years?

There have been at least two other significant factors; one is the enormous increase in interest in the art market throughout society. Sales of glossy art books and the crowd that pour into museums and stately homes bear witness to this, as does the rate at which antique shops have mushroomed in our country towns.

Another factor is the museum acquisitions which continue from year to year to reduce the stock of fine art works that remain in private hands. Will falling prices discourage buyers over a wide spectrum or will it only affect the most casual investment "fields" such as Chinese porcelain, Impressionist paintings and Victorian landscapes?

Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

£ million	1972-1973	August/December 1973	January/July 1974	1972-1973	August/December 1972	January/July 1973
Sotheby's World wide	90.3	36.4	53.9	71.7	24.3	47.4
London	49.3	18.8	32.1	40.1	12.5	27.6
America	34.3	16.9	17.4	27.2	10	17.2
Number of sales	946			893		
Christie's World wide	44.3	16.5	27.8	33.8	11	22.8
Number of sales	488	176	312	397	127	270
Phillips	10.4	3.8	6.6	7.3	2.6	4.7
Bonhams	4.56	2.1	2.5	3.1		

A zestful Sir Lew launches his latest epic Introducing the life of Jesus

The huge statue of Leonardo Da Vinci that welcomes you to Rome at the airport seems to gesture from the past to the present. But in Rome itself this week Sir Lew Grade, no meagre figure himself if short in inches, was gesturing back to the past, taking in the present and nodding enthusiastically to the future, too.

Flushed with the success of his *Antony and Cleopatra*, and cheerfully unrepentant about his even more successful *Crossroads*, this most catholic of television impresarios, the chairman and chief executive of ATV, was in the eternal city to announce his next major project. It will be a co-production with Radiotelevisione Italiana of six one-hour programmes entitled *The Life of Jesus*.

The programmes, scheduled to be shown in the spring of 1976, will be written by Anthony Burgess and Suso Cecchi D'Amico. They will be directed by Franco Zeffirelli. A panel of religious advisers, not limited to Christianity, will be involved and the finished programmes will be seen without commercial breaks.

There you have the gist of it. But how does one convey the jaw-jutting, cigar-waving zest with which Sir Lew put the project across in Rome at a luncheon, a press conference and a dinner? He told how his writers and the director had been much committed but had been persuaded to drop everything else. He told how the Italians had reacted instantly when the idea was mooted. "My hand was out," he said, "and we had a deal."

Sir Lew is at his most enthusiastic when he speaks of the Common Market partners. They, he thinks, best understand his passionate view that



Sir Lew Grade: "A series good for humanity".

the EEC can and should produce the best of anything and everything not for themselves but for the rest of the world. The Italians on their side are equally enthusiastic for Sir Lew. He, they feel, can bring their television some of the prestige it needs. They even struck a little medal to mark the occasion and the dinner. Sir Lew also received the insignia of a Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy.

Sir Lew accepted these compliments with the easy grace and wit which he meets praise and criticism alike. His is an unruffled, ebullient charm. But you take him on at your peril. The cigar tabs at the air with his answers.

Cost? Sir Lew would not be deterred. "If you spend money you get money back," he said. "If you don't spend money you don't get anything back."

He did indicate, however, that General Motors of America had already purchased the world series for showing in the United States by the National Broadcasting Company. "They didn't buy it for commercial interests," he added. "They thought it would be good for humanity."

Why Christ? "I am a Jew. Jesus was a Jew," Sir Lew replied. "I happen to have been born on the same day but that's not the reason. He happens to seem, to be back to back with me. The world is ripe for such a series. But he leaves the theology to others. He even lets out a shriek when somebody asks if the programmes will go out at the religious hour. "Peak times," he promises confidently, "or I'll shoot everyone in independent television."

You can see yourself, of course, that difficulties lie ahead. The Italians are anxious that the series shall not spin off into commercialism—a never present danger with successful programmes.

At one session, again, the author of *A Clockwork Orange* talked intensely of how he must approach the scripts, disparaging the modern bippy travesties of Christ as well as the sociological notions about him, but seeing him afresh, rather as one who did not belong to this world. You gathered, incidentally, that Mr Burgess would not have much truck with any panel of advisers.

Franco Zeffirelli to his turn spoke of the need to go back to the simple drama of Galilee. He wanted new faces for his cast but for him the problem was not to be Christ, but his mother. "Aod his father?" "Which one?" came a facetious whisper.

Sir Lew looked on and listened benignly, puffing at that outside cigar. The notion of the series was enough for him. He knew that the product would be good.

"What about a life of Sir Lew Grade?" somebody asked affectionately during a momentary lull—if there can ever be a lull with Sir Lew. For an instant the mind of Mrs Winogradski's little boy flashed back to those days in the past when a Charleston champagne and his nimble feet started him out in show business.

"I can't find the little table on which I used to dance," he retorted gazing ruefully out at the present. "If I could find that I would do it," he said.

It was, of course, a joke. But there is still the future. At 67, with another 20 years ahead as he sees it, Sir Lew has many more projects, and on the strength of his performance in Rome, that one would be a wow.

Leonard Buckley

Bernard Levin Something to rabbit on about

A friend of mine, while in the army, was once travelling at night in a lorry convoy, when a soldier travelling beside him began, whenever he saw the headlights he saw a furry shape dart across the road, to say "look, sir—rabbits". After a time, this habit began to act on my friend like the legendary Chinese water-tortoise, and, being in a position to do so, he stopped the convoy and ordered the man to take a plank to one of the other trucks; then, much relieved, he sank back in his seat and the journey continued. But not for long; soon there was a frantic signal from the following lorry, and when my friend went to investigate he found a shake-up driver who declared that he could not go another mile with his recently-acquired passenger. "He won't stop," complained the new sufferer; "every five minutes he says 'Look, sir—rabbits!'."



I never thought that I would find myself in a similar situation, and what is more I am by no means sure whether I am in the situation of my friend or of the man who kept seeing rabbits. But for some time now, I have been hearing about a book called *WaterShip Down*, by Mr Richard Adams, which is a huge book entirely about them, and what is more a novel. Now the thought of a huge novel about rabbits is, where I am concerned, several stages less appealing than the thought of a huge novel about people, which in turn is scarcely worse than a middle-sized novel about people, which itself rates for me only a fraction above earache; the upshot is that I resisted *WaterShip Down* for a long time, until a lady from Penguin's upped and sent me a copy, entirely without procreation. Taking this to be an omen, I upped and read

it. Let the word go out into all lands; I have not only read a huge novel entirely about rabbits, but found it fascinating. The book is in epic form, telling the story of a quest and a journey, which ends in success after frightful dangers; *herculean* *quid*, *comune* *Ulysses*. . . . If I say it reminds me powerfully of *The Lord of the Rings*, I wish it to be understood that that is the highest compliment I can pay it; *WaterShip Down* is not so good a book, but it is very good, and it is reminiscent of Tolkien's masterpiece without being derivative of it. It is also reminiscent of Thurber's *The Wonderful O*, which is all the more so because those who have read that jewelled tale will need in order to place *WaterShip Down*. For of course it is not just a book about rabbits; it is an allegory, and a particularly attractive, powerful and well-considered one. Like *The Wonderful O* and *The Lord of the Rings* it is a children's book; but like them, it is much more. Like them, too, it is free of moral ambiguities and moral relativism (even in the Tolkien book, by far the most many-layered and sophisticated of the three, though we might not be sure which side any particular character is on at a given moment, we are very certain which side is which, and which side the author is on himself); it has heroes and villains, and they are readily distinguishable. Moreover, they are distinguishable by the change of the society they inhabit; the rabbits of *WaterShip Down* (the hill on which, after a trek from their doomed original home, they found their new colony) are free and loving, those of *Ulysses* (accent on the first syllable) are driven and ruled by force. You can make the analogy with the ideologies of the modern world, obviously; but I also had an older model in mind as I read, no less a clash than the struggle between Athens and Sparta.

The more one thinks about books that can be read on both a child's and an adult's level, the more magical the trick seems. I remember reading *Gulliver's Travels* when I was far too young to understand what it was actually about; yet my knowledge and love of the book stem from that first reading; subsequent readings have merely explained it to me, which is not at all the same thing, and indeed not even as important. The same is true of *Erewhon*; it was years before I realized what the Mu-

sical Banks were, and I remember distinctly scurrying back to the book to re-read it, with the discovery in my case, the first time for many years, I do not know if children read *Animal Farm*, but I would not be at all surprised to learn that they do, and that they find it enthralling and that when they finally fall through it into the dark valley below they are glad they did it that way round.

WaterShip Down has one structural fault, which is so touching in what it tells us about the author and his attitude to the rabbits that it matters not at all (not that it would matter very much anyway). The adventures of the rabbits, too their way from their first home to *WaterShip Down*, on the perilous journey to Efrafa, and above all on the long slog home, are strewn with savage battles. Yet not one rabbit on "our" side is killed; Mr Adams thus loses the advantage that epic normally provides, of the inner tragedy which gives a further spring to the narrative and heightens the sense of triumph at the end; and I cannot help feeling that the reason he refrains from killing any of his party is that he had grown so fond of them in the writing that he simply could not bear to.

I do not want to leave the impression that *WaterShip Down* is a solemn tract; on the contrary, it is written with a falling delicacy of feeling and a cherm of manner, and can be read in one huge gulp. Mr Adams, incidentally, is a Civil Servant, and before you begin to reflect that Civil Servants are not what they were when you were a child, reflect first that he is in the Department of the Environment, and his particular job is concerned with encouraging clean air and discouraging pollution. From his lovely book, one might have guessed.

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The Times Diary Don't let a crisis spoil the holiday

These are hazardous times for holidaymakers. Even those who are not actually caught up in the remaining decline of the west have other annoyances. Although tourism in Italy has suffered from reports that the country is in a state of collapse such as is often predicted for Britain, there are still many holidaymakers bold enough to go there. Peter Nichols has been talking to some of them, and reports:

These intrepid voyagers who, choosing Italy for their holidays, are tanning in the cyclone's eye, ought to return with travellers' tales to last them through the remaining decline of the west. Italy, we are told, is crisis-stricken, a mess for our whole consumer society, and if any tourists do not know what state the country is in, the Italian press is telling them.

Paolo Monelli writes in the *Corriere Dello Scro* that the collapse of the postal system after two centuries of progress is the "biggest catastrophe" that could strike a country already in difficulty in other ways. Foreign visitors used to come

when there was still the danger of brigands: "Today their security is much more in danger," Monelli writes. "The sea is polluted, the rivers fetid with chemical waste, the railways have bombs under them and trains can be derailed or end at the bottom of the sea. One of his colleagues on the same newspaper admits to being embarrassed at being given the task of explaining why there is a reported drop of 45 per cent in bookings so far this year—embarrassed because there is such a choice of reasons. The posts, the strikes which blocked taxis, forcing passengers to carry their own heavy cases under the blistering sun to the aircraft, then there were the bombs."

A British priest back in Rome after years in an African mission noticed two signs of crisis: bounding prices and a hardening of the character of the urban Italian—fewer smiles, more irascibility, a touch of desperation. This is evident in the accounts

of wild expenditure. "Where we were in Sardinia, they were leaving 500 tips for the waiter," said one holidaymaker. A postcard seller in Bracciano, to the north of Rome, has been shocking his visitors with stories of frenzied buying of furs and jewels and every form of luxury. "You see, it is like a patient who is seriously ill and is doing all he can to hasten his own death."

Many British tourists remain calm, in the midst of the drama. A middle-aged couple from the north, making their obeisances at the Trevi Fountain, could see no reason for changing their plans because of news of a crisis. "We haven't noticed it, though we have noticed that they prefer to give you a stamp because they have no small change."

A middle-aged couple at St Peter's had been caught by a strike in Florence. It spoiled their breakfast. They were given buns but no butter, no milk, no sugar. But they want to be fair: "We do have shortages in England, too."

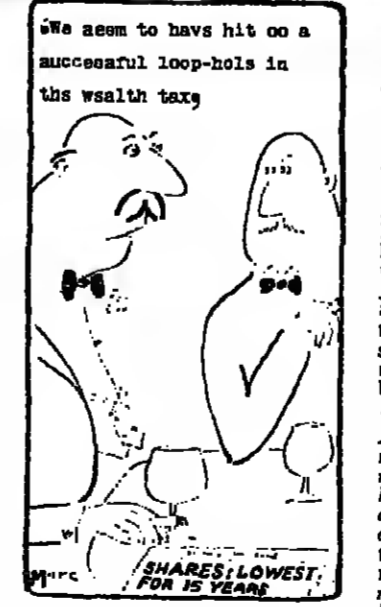
This pair did not feel as if they were in the midst of a crisis: "You see, we are on a conducted tour," they explained. That refuge from the harsh economic laws does not protect everybody. A Lancashire couple who had taken a bus to Tivoli Gardens (half empty because of the lack of tourists)

had noticed a thing or two around them. "We don't think it is as tidy as it should be, and there is rather a lot of scribbling on the walls."

Asked point blank whether they had detected a real crisis, they replied: "We haven't noticed it, but perhaps those graffiti have something to do with it."

The most acid note came from Brindisi. A tourist arrived after the Athens drama, and the counter-coup to find Brindisi in the grip of a "day of struggle"—a new phrase which roughly means a general strike. Weary from the journey, finding everything shut, no room in an hotel and no way out of the place, he said: "The trouble with Mediterranean countries is that if they are not having a revolution they are having a strike."

Sod irony for Edwin Packer, an editor at a publishing firm. He has just had to give up his job because of high blood pressure, caused by the stress of writing a book in his spare time. The book was called *Stress in Your Life*.



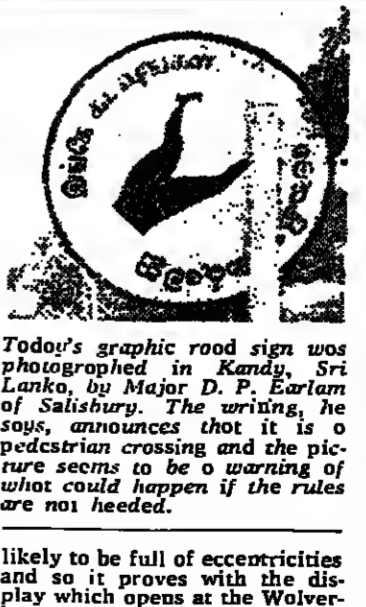
President of the Liberal Party. He fought Easbourne at the last election and the three before that.

Terrell emphasizes that the High Court judges and many district judges in Cyprus are members of the English bar, whose standard of behaviour should be universal. He is loath to criticize their conduct. "What would we do, if we lived

under a dictatorship? These people were in the same position as various judges under Hitler, some of whom were undoubtedly English bar members too."

Terrell would not be an easy man to frighten. He was with the Parachute Regiment in Normandy and the Ardennes during the war. He used to regard himself as the Liberal Party's hutchman, and wielded the weapon most frequently in Jeremy Thorpe's inquest against the Young Liberals in the days when they were considered troublesome. He has not been re-adopted for Easbourne.

A fresh case of BBC newsreaders spreading alarm was noted by L. Hyde of Twickenham, who heard a bulletin about Royal Marine commandos "fighting their way through holiday traffic between Gloucester and Plymouth." And the other day I caught a nostalgic newsreader, banking up the grand old days, who spoke of the "British Foreign Secretary, Sir—er, Mr James Callaghan."



Today's graphic road sign was photographed in Kandy, Sri Lanka, by Major D. P. Easlam of Salisbury. The warning, he says, announces that it is a pedestrian crossing and the picture seems to be a warning of what could happen if the rules are not heeded.

likely to be full of eccentricities and so it proves with the display which opens at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery next week, called *One for the Pot*.

One of the star exhibits is a teapot reputedly presented to John Wesley. In his early years he was inordinately fond of tea, although he complained that it made him shake. Later he renounced it and asked his followers to do likewise, and to give the money thus saved to the poor.

The savings could have been

considerable. Another exhibit is a Twinnings company ledger of the early 19th century. An entry for the Earl of Lichfield shows that he paid 18s for half a pound of (unsubsidized) Bohemia tea. And while tea was still the nectar of the moneyed, the Earl of Cadogan invented a teapot which is filled from the bottom. It does not work.

One of the more compelling oddities collected for an exhibition that abounds in them is "The Kitten's Tea and Croquet Party." Inside a glass case are dozens of tiny kittens in the miming attitudes appropriate to a tea party. It is too late for cat conservationists to object—Walter Potter created this and the rest of his strange series of stuffed cats in 1875. They will soon go to the stuffed animal collection of a man in Arundel with an earnest and understandable desire for anonymity.

Two readers were intrigued by headlines in *The Times* last week. Martin Fletcher, of *Harling Island*, laughed at the idea of "Erewhon" being accused of leading Boots offer in our City section, and a Paris reader was alarmed that in an attempt to ban sex discrimination an equal opportunities body was to be created.

PHS



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REFLATION WOULD BE WORSE

In an ideal, inflation-free economy, the growth in the stock of money would be neither more nor less than the underlying increase in national productivity. As matters stand, Britain and most other western countries have fallen so far short of this ideal that it is not even easy to decide which monetary policy is likely to prove least damaging.

Since late 1971, when it became clear that the British money supply was rising at a progressively faster rate than the money value of output, *The Times* has argued consistently and strongly for restraint. We never shared the view that inflating the money supply was itself a healthy way of stimulating growth, and we were rightly worried about the risks of overheating the home economy and fuelling price inflation.

Perhaps this approach appeared too austere to command popular support. At all events, the real annual rate of change in the money supply — the notional change less the going rate of inflation — increased sharply from 5 per cent or so either side of zero during 1971 and early 1972 to well over 20 per cent during 1972 and 1973, with notional increases of well over 30 per cent recorded. The inevitable effect on inflation was reinforced by lax monetary policies abroad and by a total absence of effective monetary controls on the international capital markets.

Suddenly — or so it seems — the position has reversed. "M3" — the broad version of the money supply which includes interest-bearing bank deposits as well as current accounts — has stopped growing at the prodigious rates

recorded last year and in recent months has actually declined in real terms. For the first time since 1969, monetary policy would appear to be operating as a deflationary force.

For that reason, some of the most dedicated monetarists of recent years are now urging the Bank of England to take its foot off the brake if a serious recession is to be averted. With the improvement in the flow of monetary statistics, it is now possible to point to some dramatic close correlations between changes in the money supply and in the level of employment, as well as in the value of financial assets such as shares and gilt-edged stocks. The monetarists' concern, therefore, must be taken seriously, unless one subscribes to the view that inflation can only be broken on the wheel of a depression.

However the case for a more compliant monetary policy is certainly still unproven. Though property companies, stockbrokers, "fringe" banks and other financial institutions have suffered severely from the rising cost and falling availability of credit, there is no evidence as yet that monetary restraint is taking its toll of industrial and commercial companies.

On the contrary, bank lending (normally a major determinant of changes in the money supply) has remained relatively buoyant, rising at an annual rate of nearly 20 per cent between April and July while M3 rose by just 3 per cent. The increase would undoubtedly have been greater had the demand for credit existed: most major companies remain well within their agreed overdraft limits and it can be assumed that the Bank of England would

help to accommodate any upturn in legitimate borrowing needs, as it has done in the past, by easing the pressure on the banks' reserve ratios. Of course, the cost of credit remains extremely high by historical standards; but it is not as high as it was earlier this year. British interest rates are not greatly out of line with international rates and remain negative, when adjusted for inflation.

So it is hardly surprising that the CBI industrial trends survey for July, published yesterday, did not suggest that monetary restraint was proving a direct impediment to economic activity. Only 8 per cent of respondents to the survey identified credit or finance as factors likely to limit their output over the next four months. By contrast, over 40 per cent were worried about the availability of materials, labour or energy. It is unlikely that a decision to pump more money into the system would do much to help matters on these fronts.

It is even more doubtful whether a compliant monetary policy would have any more success now than it did three years ago in stimulating capital investment: probably less. For whatever happens to the money supply, a high degree of liquidity preference is only to be expected as long as the economic outlook remains so uncertain. The truth is that monetary policy is now caught in the traditional inflationary dilemma; any increase in the money supply does still further damage to confidence, and strengthens the expectation of further inflation. Failure to increase the money supply depresses the economy. It is right to take one's risks in trying to retain monetary stability.

Problems of Labour Party moderates

From Mr John Maddox
Sir, Some of Mr Roy Jenkins's parliamentary colleagues are complaining about the timing of his speech. For my taste, it was at least a year too late. He underestimates the extent to which moderate support for the Labour Party has been alienated by the events of the past two years since he left the Shadow Cabinet.

As one who left the Labour Party last year, I am less concerned with the Labour Party's ambitions, which are probably as impracticable as they are wild, than with the way the Labour Party has already hampered by its unresolved internal divisions.

The European question has been buried by the stratagem of renegation and referendum, which turns out to be a device for confusing European relations while preventing the emergence of a coherent policy. The seriousness of the country's economic problems is played down for lack of agreement on economic strategy; without an income policy, living with inflation is inevitable.

The support of Mr Jenkins's supporters in the present Government and in the House of Commons is in its way even more alarming. Instead of a coherent Government, we have two groups of ministers, some radical and some liberal. What the people have, however, is a Government which is unable to turn on which minister attends which meeting. Many moderate MPs, increasingly fearful that they will be turned out by a constituency party coup, are sustained chiefly by the hope that the coming election will create circumstances in which they can speak out more openly.

Mr Jenkins's appeal for moderate support might succeed if moderate voters were convinced he could deliver within the Labour Party the moderating influence he seeks. The present has, however, shown that for the time being the most sure, if necessarily unconstructive, moderating influence in British politics is the voting power of the handful of Liberals and Nationalists in the House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MADDOX,
20 Tudor Street, EC4.

Private rented accommodation

From Mr David Samuel
Sir, The Federation of Private Renters' Associations, representing more than 50 associations of residents in the private unfurnished sector, believes that many of the abuses that have been practised on tenants and leaseholders in recent years by a minority of financial manipulators who took over from some of the more traditional landlords, and which led to the establishment of this Federation in 1971, may not have occurred had the supply of private rented unfurnished accommodation been more in equilibrium with demand.

We are therefore most concerned to find a way in which the future supply of such accommodation can be encouraged and stimulated or, more negatively, at least discouraged from oversteering from the market.

We reject absolutely the concept of wholesale "municipalization" as, firstly, being a totally irrelevant exercise in spending enormous sums of public money to merely change the names of the deeds without adding single unit of socially available accommodation and, secondly, as representing a real threat of an eventual state monopoly supplier of accommodation with all the attendant risks and dangers that spring from that kind of situation.

It is our belief that there should always be a future for the private supplier of rented accommodation and that is why we feel that the best interests of tenants will be served by bringing about a détente in landlord-tenant relations and by seeking to discuss with all responsible landlords and landlord groupings matters of mutual interest and concern.

Delinquent children

From Mr John Gittins
Sir, It is a pity that the main co-ordinator of Marcel Berlins and Geoffrey Wansell, both in their articles in *The Times* of July 25 and in their book *Caught in the Act* — that hard core of persistent delinquents who are a constant drain on society — is backed by fallacious arguments and produces a highly questionable remedy.

Criminal statistics are notoriously hard to interpret but it is misleading to suggest that the hard core of young offenders under 17 is responsible for the vast majority of crimes committed, or that their removal or reform would of itself considerably change the pattern or extent of adult crime.

The central purpose of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 is to provide care according to a child's need and not according to his parents' value. Many disturbed, unhappy, neglected or unfulfilled children are not particularly delinquent but pose a major future threat to themselves, their children, and society. Many persistent delinquents are not particularly disturbed in the sense of needing psychiatric treatment. To reallocate resources so as to concentrate on the most troublesome is morally wrong and is poor social engineering.

The hopes placed on physical confinement as a remedy or as a basis for a remedy reflect frustration rather than common sense. Children's prisons, however euphemistically described, have never worked and are over likely to do so.

is no accident that the Home Office and the NHS are secretive about the results of their repetitive over-research on detection centres is discouraging. The story of the first youth treatment centre is no better. Do cost alone the proposals of Berlins and Wansell are impracticable. A proposed closed unit for 25 children is estimated to cost well over half a million pounds. Berlins and Wansell postulate an annual intake of 2,500 children — something over 5,000 places!

It is high time that we stopped this swinging pendulum which has become intolerable to eye but we have not the time to reflect on an oscillation between fear and compassion in a public largely ignorant of the facts. Although the problem is immensely complex we do have enough evidence to promote a more constructive policy. We have most of the necessary resources. And if the 1969 Act were fully implemented by Parliament we should have a consistent legislative framework. What we have not got is concerted action which brings together courts, social agencies, treatment facilities, day schools (a grossly neglected service), and put it at its lowest, youth provisions and staff training establishments in a positive fashion. There are no quick answers. But to rely on locking up heirs rather than promoting thought on more radical and more hopeful policies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GITTINS,
School Education,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

CAN THE FRENCH NOT AFFORD BETTER PRISONS?

The rioting in French prisons, which in recent days has provoked so much violence and damage and caused several deaths, provides a paradigm of the problems facing France, and indeed modern industrial societies in general. No one disputes that the state of French prisons is antiquated. Many of the buildings date from the turn of the century or earlier; much of the disciplinary practice retains an almost medieval severity; most of the staff are critical of the way the prison service is run.

From time to time, well-intentioned attempts have been made to bring about reforms. Only a couple of years ago, after rioting at Toul, near Nancy, a special inquiry into prison conditions was set up. It reported what had shaped the prison system was in and emphasized the need to introduce modern ideas about the treatment of prisoners — ie, finding some other way of keeping a prisoner quiet than tying him down on a bed for days on end. The then Minister of Justice set a measure of reform in hand; but, as usual, it got lost in the administrative sands.

The latest outbreak of rioting has been much worse than anything that occurred on previous, isolated occasions. The message is plain. Trouble of one sort or another has broken out in the prisons right across France. The protests have not been confined to prisoners; sensing, perhaps, that this time their hour had

come too, warders have been voicing their grievances as well. Their point is well taken: for if the prisoners have demonstrated that the prisons cannot be run without their cooperation (one is speaking here of prisons in a free society, not a hell-hole in the Gulag Archipelago), it is equally true that effective reforms can only be undertaken with the support of the prison service.

In M Giscard d'Estaing, leader of a reforming administration, and M Jean Lecanuet, a liberal Minister of Justice, the right kind of political conjunction exists for changes to be made. Or so it looked. In these inflationary times, however, questions of civilization (Dr Leavis made the point again in a different context in our correspondence columns yesterday) are themselves subordinated to monetary goals.

Certainly, reforms to the prison system would cost money. The proportion of the French budget devoted to the courts and prisons is only 0.75 per cent. One of the changes proposed, to bring grades and rates of pay of the police force, which would wonder, it appears, for the morale of the staff, would cost one million French francs. A small enough sum, but rather too much for the Minister of Finance, from the point of view of monetary, as opposed to prison discipline; for if the warders go a rise, then the rest of the Civil Service, it was feared, would put in their claims.

Moreover, formidable opposi-

tion came from another quarter. The Minister of the Interior, M Poniatowski, responsible for law and order generally, became alarmed at other proposals, particularly the idea of putting an end to the system of prisoners' records. Though the complaint is made that such records can dog a man's life, they are decidedly useful to the authorities in keeping tabs on people.

Moreover, the warders, undermined by about 7,000 as they are, are the people who must bear the brunt, so to speak, of more humane prison rules. If prisoners are allowed transistor radios in their cells, and some men abuse the privilege, or even, taking a clock to pieces, contrive to pick their cell lock, it is the warders who are in trouble. They claim that their working conditions are already intolerable, and that measures for liberalizing prisons have not been accompanied by corresponding security measures. Public opinion in France, normally apathetic to questions of penal reform, seems to have become in rapid turns, fascinated, alarmed at going too far, and then secrete.

The result, whatever the exact motive, is that M Poniatowski is clearly on top in the ministerial dust-dust, despite M Giscard d'Estaing lending his moral support for reform — a prison, he has said, is to deprive a man of his liberty, not force. M Lecanuet has been forced to put off his plans. The risk of raising hopes of reform so widely, and then stalling, is that it may provoke still more trouble.

Use of resources to fight inflation

From Mr Geoffrey Strickland
Sir, Calls for a "leader" who has "the courage and honesty to tell us the truth about our problems" are now heard fairly often. Evidently, however, I am surprised to find that this implies — and widespread unemployment is one of the most obvious signs of government ineffectiveness — that the government is in power. And if this happens, there are many conscientious hard working people who may lose their jobs or become much poorer and many parasites, in every class of society, who will be able more or less comfortably to survive.

Neither a recession nor drastic deflationary policies are likely to organize ourselves socially and use our knowledge to make the most of what we have got. The crime of not addressing ourselves to the real problems is as much that of academics as of politicians, as evidenced by Dr Pitt's smug appeal to "elementary truths that should have been clocked up at O level".

Time and money spent on insatiable learning is wasted if those who adorn them are not concerned to ask and ask again whether the solutions they teach really bite into the reality in which they are supposed to apply. I would ask Dr Pitt to take a longer look at academia and see if there is not a beam in his own eye.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BODINGTON,
Senior Lecturer,
Middlesex Polytechnic,
Queensway, Enfield.

Zaire river expedition

From Major General F. G. Caldwell
Sir, May I take the opportunity of putting the record straight concerning the Zaire River Expedition mentioned in your columns on July 27. The expedition, which is made up of about 90 servicemen and 40 civilians, is sponsored by the Scientific Exploration Society and will be led by Major J. H. Bashford-Soell, Royal Engineers.

It has two aims. First, during the four months of the expedition, from October, 1974, to January, 1975, the 30-40 doctors and scientists who make up the major part of the civilian element in the team will carry out an extensive programme of medical and scientific research. The medical team, which will be led by Mr F. Rodger, an internationally known expert on tropical eye diseases, will be concentrating on research into onchocerciasis (river blindness) which is endemic in the Central African river basins.

It is estimated that 20 million people are affected by this disease. The scientists, under the direction of Dr H. P. Greenwood from the British Museum (Natural History), will be carrying out a very full research programme with particular reference to the fish in the river itself.

Second, the servicemen will attempt to navigate the 2,700 miles long Zaire river. This river, with its many dangerous rapids, some up

Respect for the law

From Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC
Conservative MP for Epsom and Ewell
Sir, In your report on Parliament of Friday, July 26, on the debate on the decline in respect for the law, it is stated that I said in the House that I had been wrong to have feared that the abolition of capital punishment would lead to more criminals carrying guns. I said nothing of the kind. Indeed I believe that about that I had been right. What I did say was that I had certainly been wrong to have opposed majority verdicts in criminal trials.

The main points in my speech were first that "martyrs" can be made of terrorists without capital punishment (see the Price sisters); and that disrespect for the law was linked to disrespect for the law-makers and for parliamentary conduct, which is to modern times unacceptable to the public and which only the televising of Parliament will cure.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RAWLINSON,
House of Commons.

Bare-foot doctors

From Dr Frank S. Rickards
Sir, If we trained an army of "bare-foot" doctors in this country (they do it in three months in China) it would be able to diagnose and treat 80 per cent of the illnesses that commonly beset us. This would allow the NHS to shed its overload and concentrate its expertise. If the truth were known, the St John Ambulance Brigade are perfectly competent to treat most of our ills. In China the "bare-foot" doctors are primarily peasants. They give medical care in addition to tilling the soil... and for no more money just "to serve the people". I recognize that in our highly civilized Christian culture this would present a problem.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK S. RICKARDS,
Lane Head House,
Bolton-Leads House,
Lancashire,
Carnforth.

Britain and the EEC

From Mr William Pickles
Sir, Dr Nathaniel Mickles is wholly right (July 27) in his statement of the difficulties facing the country who wishes to come to a "wise and sure conclusion" about the problem of British membership of the European Community. But he is wrong in thinking that any considerable number of MPs are wiser or better informed. We give them no research assistance, and yet expect them to make at least a show of knowing something about nearly every political problem, with the result that most of them end by knowing very little about anything more than a handful of problems.

Beginning as what is called a "European", I have been fortunate in being able to study the problem from positions of vantage for more than 30 years. I first met it in French "underground" newspapers during the war. As I learned, I moved from a vaguely favourable position to a deep conviction that membership would be a catastrophic error.

Others, equally well placed to learn, have reached exactly opposite convictions. But one of us can swear that he actually knows what will be the outcome, in five, fifty or a hundred years, of the interplay of the hundreds of factors involved — factors of which many have probably not yet revealed themselves. In most cases, in my view, the conclusions are only partly rational, and much more *pour des raisons que la raison ne connaît pas*.

I have lectured or debated on this subject to audiences varying from sixth forms, Rotary Clubs, Women's Institutes, MPs, Civil Servants, high officials of the Foreign Office and many foreign audiences, including high officials of the community itself. In no case have I found anyone among them — least of all among community officials — who are as honest as they are intelligent, devoted and informed — who had the kind of certainty that Dr Mickles sought for himself.

I have debated with MPs who boasted at one and the same time of total ignorance and firm conviction. I do not blame them, but I do deny them any special competence, especi-

Convention in Ulster

From Mr Trevor West
Sir, The British proposals for a Constitutional Convention in Northern Ireland provide an opportunity for Ulstermen to establish a common identity and for their politicians to work out proposals for the future government of Northern Ireland.

The Convention can bear fruit only if the participants from the majority and minority groups feel that they are being given a genuine opportunity of putting forward their apparently conflicting aspirations for examination and discussion with a realistic hope of moving forward from entrenched positions. The fact that progress can be made in such circumstances is amply demonstrated by the working of the Executive after Sunningdale.

The chief ingredient necessary for the success of the Convention is the incentive provided by the offer of real power to the politicians should the outcome be favourable and a real consensus reached. The administration to be formed after the Con-

Ban language in schools

From Mr H. D. Welton
Sir, As a schoolmaster about to leave an excellent public school (Cranleigh) to teach in a new comprehensive (Stonbury, Milton Keynes), I am baffled by Ronald Brit's recent article. The boys at Cranleigh frequently use Anglo-Saxon expletives among themselves; so, I am told, did their fathers.

In Milton Keynes the co-educational situation will probably lead to greater restraint in the use of language. Will this prove that comprehensive schools are better than public schools? Of course it will not. Educational standards are not measured in these terms, and rightly not.

Yours, etc,
HILARY DAVAN WELTON,
The Abbeaux,
Pail Mall, SW1.

From Mr Stephen Bodington

Sir, Dr Pitt's letter on inflation (July 31) fills me with alarm. He says, in summary: "No mystery about inflation; it is due to excessive claims on real resources; remedy equally

From Mr Stephen Bodington

obvious — consume less or produce more; all of us too flabby; need strong leader."

Our "real resources" are people and knowledge and we have a lot of both; the problem is inability to use what we have to good social effect. Paralytically to point to the dividing water between what we ought to be able to produce, explains nothing. The real problem is to discover how people might structure their relations to one another in production and distribution so as to bring into use their undoubted resources of skill, energy, ingenuity and knowledge to the general advantage of the whole community.

Absolute shortage of materials is not the basic problem; it is how to organize ourselves socially and use our knowledge to make the most of what we have got. The crime of not addressing ourselves to the real problems is as much that of academics as of politicians, as evidenced by Dr Pitt's smug appeal to "elementary truths that should have been clocked up at O level".

Time and money spent on insatiable learning is wasted if those who adorn them are not concerned to ask and ask again whether the solutions they teach really bite into the reality in which they are supposed to apply. I would ask Dr Pitt to take a longer look at academia and see if there is not a beam in his own eye.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BODINGTON,
Senior Lecturer,
Middlesex Polytechnic,
Queensway, Enfield.

From Mr G. Langlands

Sir, Henceforward the motor car allowance payable to MPs is to be at the rate of 7.7p per mile. In accordance with a Department

From Mr G. Langlands

of Health form (MPF 81F) issued last week, war pensioner (100 per cent disabled) travelling in his own "private vehicle" to a treatment centre is allowed 2.7p per mile.

Presumably someone knows the answer.

Yours faithfully,
G. LANGLANDS,
The Cottage,
Yoxford Place,
Yoxford, East Suffolk.

The over-dramatic history of International PEN's new general secretary

International PEN, the association of Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Editors and Novelists, is alive and well, and has a new general secretary, Peter Elstob, an English novelist, military historian and engaging jack-of-all-trades. Mr Elstob is an aptly international figure to lead the international army of scribblers who believe that literature matters more than politics or nationalism.

His biography might have been rendered thus by Alfred Jingle in *Pickwick Papers*: Educated in United States from age of seven to 19. That explains mid-Atlantic vowel sounds. "I call myself a citizen of Atlantis." Commissioned in R.A.F. Could not get bang of English class thing. Resigned. Went to Spain to fly for Republicans in Civil War. "Not idealism, merely adventure; and, of course, Hitler was on other side." Sent to prison in Barcelona. Sentenced to death. Shocking, shocking. Rescued by girl, whom he married. Wrote book about experience. Harold Macmillan advised, "Start business to support scribbling." Capital advice. With £50 founded cosmetics firm that still pays for bread and butter. Fought through war in tanks. Founded and ran the Arts Theatre Club during its greatest period. Fed up after war. Went to Mexico, writing. Started tourist centre that ruined perfectly inoffensive Mexican village. Wrote best-selling fiction about tank-crew life, *Warriors for the Working Day*. Good. Very good.

Worked for *New York Times* in Morocco. Manager of first

crossing of Atlantic by balloon, and nearly went up himself. Nor a leg to stand on. Book about it. Publisher. Courier for PEN. More books. Latest *Hitler's Last Offensive*, about Ardennes campaign. Fall-out from vast flawed project of book analysing all Hitler's opinions and alternatives and what would have happened if he had chosen differently. "Great title: *Corporal-General Hitler*, and fascinating idea." But by time he reached 1944 found he would have needed whole Staff College plus computer to handle chains of options.

Mr Elstob says: "You see, I warned you. My history is overly dramatic. I feel a bit embarrassed by it, but it is just the way life has worked out. I have been terribly lucky and had a good time."

The book he is at present working on is an examination of literary prizes, with special reference to the Nobel prize. To cap it all he has just been made general secretary of International PEN, in the distinguished slippers of David Carver, the singer. Since V. S. Pritchett is now president of International PEN—the first Englishman since Charles Morgan—this gives the Anglo-Saxons an almost embarrassing predominance in the unique anti-nationalist, pro-literature body.

PEN was founded in 1921 by Catharine Dawson Scott, a novelist, poet and spiritualist and one of those marvellous Edwardian women who went around founding things. It was fuelled on revolution against the extreme nationalism of the

First World War, and began, with characteristic English eccentricity, as a London dining club where such shy, prickly, isolated creatures as authors could meet their own kind and talk about common interests.

It has blossomed into a federation of writers that is treated in places like Asia and Central Europe with immense official respect, which would amaze and abash the British. It is not a trade union of writers, but leaves such matters as Public Leading Right and a better deal generally for writers to other organizations.

PEN's fundamental principle and strength is the ideal of free communication between writers and the unbampered transmission of thought within and between nations. It is concerned with literature, not political entities. Consequently Belgium has two PEN centres, because it has two main languages. Yugoslavia has four. And there is a problem about the Soviet Union joining, because it embraces, if that is the right word, 60 languages.

Another problem, of more immediate concern to the politicians in the Kremlin than the writers, is the "Writers in Exile Centre", to say nothing of the Estonian Centre. A parallel political problem is the Chinese Centre in Taiwan. PEN sticks firmly to its principle of dealing with writers not governments and of avoiding being taken over or manipulated by political warriors of any camp.

Its "Writers in Prison Committee" has, regrettably, a deal of work to do in alle-

viating the conditions of any writer who is put in prison or otherwise persecuted for his writings. It is an area where it is hard to avoid politics. Sometimes a writer is also a politician. There are difficult pink areas that are neither pure white nor pure red. A recent example was the case of the poet Jean Cocteau, who was also a Greek member of parliament and president of Greek PEN. International PEN went to bat for him when the Colonels locked him up.

PEN is officially described as a non-governmental organization of Unesco. This entitles it to a disgracefully puny subvention of about £2,000 a year. It uses some £2,000 of its pittance to publish its quarterly *Bulletin of Selected Books*, which publicizes good books written in "languages of lesser currency". PEN uses its other money to help writers in distress, to organize its conferences and congresses, and to promote its high literary and international ideals.

The new general secretary says: "Ideally the general secretary should not be a writer. A writer should get on with his job. And a non-writer would be likely to get on better with other writers. You need a diplomat. It is like being a schoolmaster, with boys coming to you all the time complaining that somebody has twisted their arms."

Few, if any, other writers are anything but gratified and delighted by the appointment.

Philip Howard



Brighton—the spiritual decline of a British institution

Like most places nominally dedicated to fun, Brighton has melancholy beneath its surface. When scandalous events come to light—like the tragic death of seven-year-old Maria Colwell in a bleak council estate stretching up the hill from the sea to the racecourse, or the sociological nightmare of the "Mad Dogs of Sussex", impoverished Hell's Angels who travelled on foot and three of whose members were recently convicted of throwing a fourth weighted with concrete into Shoreham Harbour—people tend to blink with astonishment.

Brighton, after all, is a British institution. Rescued from its stupor as a decaying seventeenth-century fishing village by Dr Richard Russell, a fashionable physician who believed in seawater, Brightwellstone, as it then was, found its apotheosis in the corpulent romps of George IV and his friends. By the turn of this century, with the seaside holiday habit well established and a train service from London that is no faster to this day, a contemporary guidebook could say: "There is nothing down at beel or squalid or frowzy about Brighton—the looks rich and prosperous and well-to-do. She is like an English matron, stately and well preserved. She knows how to behave and expects to be treated with respect."

Sadly, things have changed. Brighton is still rich: it had last year the highest rateable value per head of population of any English provincial county borough, one of the lowest rates, and a council that describes itself unblushingly in the *Municipal Year Book* as an outstanding example of municipal enterprise.

You can still eat seafood well and expensively at English's and Wheeler's, or well and cheaper at D'Arcy's fish restaurant. The English Channel still slops about bracingly off the promenade, in front of the Grand Hotel where they hold the party conferences. The Pavilion still stands, its domes hatched in purple floodlights as though it had fallen down inconspicuously among the traffic from some huge sweat bag in the sky.

But the physical decline of the traditional attractions of Brighton has paralleled its spiritual decline. Once you could travel down by rail on the "Brighton Belle", admiring the Pullman plush, ordering half-bottles of Chablis and watching Sir Laurence Olivier eat kippers at the next table. British Rail scrapped it two years ago.

The two famous piers are in a sad state. The West Pier is 107 years old and the pier end theatre has been closed for three seasons. It may be demolished. The Palace Pier, opened in 1901, was recently battered by a drifting barge and a corner of the second pier end theatre collapsed into the sea. The onion-shaped domes drifted morlornly on to the pebbly beach, and no one knows when the damage will finally be repaired.

Volvo's electric railway, which proceeds along the detritus of the upper beach, is more than 70 years old and fewer passengers this year than last, it is nearing the end of its days, and may be replaced by a manor-rail.

Visitors no longer tend to come and stay for a fortnight to marvel at the Dolphinarium, ramble round the antique shops in The Lanes, and spend the evening with Elsie and Doris Waters. The last survey showed the average length of stay down from 9.3 nights in 1964 to 6.6.

Where a 1917 guide book speaks of the winter season being "to a great extent sacred to the aristocracy", people now joke that the habitués of Brighton are jockeys, antique

dealers, homosexuals and retired harmaids.

The Regency elegance has given way in the shops not even to the honest vulgarity of sticks of rock shaped like kippers and rude postcards, but the kitsch of gilt-in illuminated models of the Vatican which play *Ave Maria*.

The foothills of the uniform slopes of Edwardian terraces that lead to the Sussex Downs are peppered with cheap do-it-yourself shops, all holding out the dream that every man's two-up and two-down can be a sun-drenched, pink-washed Regency-style Mediterranean villa. You can dispose of your dog with dignity in a local animal crematorium.

And behind all this, there is a brutal truth: Brighton is no longer a seaside resort at all. It has 161,000 inhabitants, which makes it comparable with Reading or Exeter.

The chief industry is not tourism but engineering, which provides about 10,000 jobs, compared with a maximum of about 5,000 that the local labour exchange manager would attribute directly to the holiday trade.

Of a total of 90,000 jobs, manufacturing industries comprise about a quarter, and many of the rest boil down to taking in washing—the service industries that any community generates.

The seasonal fluctuation in employment is only around 10 per cent, and new employers are constantly arriving. American Express, for example, is building a large office block there, and the outskirts of the London road by Preston Park are lined with large private homes turned into administrative headquarters for insurance companies.

There is a considerable housing problem, just as in the poorer areas of Queen's Park and Whitehawk there is a notably serious child abuse problem; in the bed-sitters behind the Regency façades of Brunswick Square, there is a retired people's welfare problem that taxes local social services more than any other issue.

Brighton is 20 per cent council housing. The waiting list has risen over the past three and a half years from 1,000 to 1,500. Those close to the housing department firmly believe this figure underestimates the true shortage by at least three times; the waiting list is restricted in those who have lived in Brighton for three years and to families who earn less than £35 a week.

House prices in Brighton have soared to London levels. A two-bedroom terrace house that sold for £300 after the last war fetches £10,000 now in the suburbs.

When one meets a couple who were born in Brighton, where the husband is a house-painter laid off for most of the winter, and the family can find no way of getting a home other than to

move out to steady work and lower prices in the Midlands, one wonders whether Brighton ought not really to be characterized as an area of urban stress, comparable to inner London.

When one further discovers that the local Conservative council is so property-minded that it includes a father and son from the same firm of estate agents who are respectively former chairman of the district council and chairman of the county highways committee, one begins to wonder if the key text to the soul of Brighton is not *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, that Edwardian socialist classic set in the seaside town of Hastings near by.

The council proposed recently for example to demolish part of the elderly Whitehawk council estate, put up an equivalent number of new council houses, and sell the rest of the land, worth about £70,000 an acre, for private house-building.

This plan, which aroused much local opposition in the context of a house-building programme which is running out of land in the narrow box between the Downs, the adjoining borough of Hove and the Channel, was dropped. Brighton Kempton is, after all, a very marginal Tory seat at Westminster.

But the councillors, who are all no doubt honourable men, recognize the change in Brighton's fortunes. To attract the new leisured class, they are anxious to see the controversial new marina, the largest yacht harbour in Europe, built successfully near Whitehawk at a potential cost estimated up to £100m.

They are anxious to grab more of the booming conference trade, and a new 5,000-seat conference centre is being built on the front as part of the grandiose Churchill Square shopping centre.

Similarly, they have agreed to British Rail's plan to knock down the huge wrought iron spans of Brighton Station, a lister building which costs £75,000 to repair every seven years, and replace them in a deal British Rail has worked out with the Peachey Investment company to provide 250,000 square feet of offices, 100,000 square feet of hypermarket, 200 flats and houses, and a 1,000-bedroom luxury hotel. Both the marina and the railway station plan are back in the melting pot. A public inquiry into the marina opens in October, and the rail planning application has been called in by the Secretary of State for Environment.

But local residents' groups fear Brighton is busily reasserting its fortunes by turning itself into a property developers' metropolis that may come out in the end very like Croydon-by-the-Sea.

David Leigh

The world's most exquisite watches have always been rather costly.

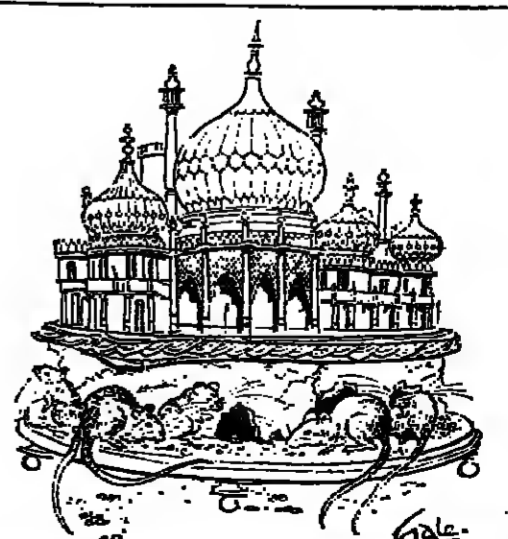
The watches above are from a collection at the Rolex Headquarters in Geneva. They were collected by Hans Wilsdorf, founder of The Rolex Watch Company, and form part of one of the finest private watch collections in the world. All the watches were costly when they were new, since the exquisite work of skilled craftsmen has always been valued highly. That is why the Rolex Lady Datejust is an expensive watch today. Each one takes just over a year to make.

The elegant case is carved from a solid block of 18ct. gold or stainless steel. The unique Rolex winding crown, which screws down onto the case and works very much like a submarine hatch, provides a virtually impenetrable seal. So beneath its surpassing beauty the Rolex Lady Datejust hides a secret strength with artistry as fine, feminine and subtle as any collector's piece. And is almost as valuable.

ROLEX
of Geneva



Pictured: 18ct. Gold Lady Datejust. Ladies' Rolex Oysters from £143, inc.VAT. For free catalogue write to Rolex, 1 Green Street, London W1J 4JY.



سكننا من الالهي

London and Regional Market Prices

Oil shares weaker

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, July 22. Dealings End, Today. 5 Contango Day, Aug 5. Settlement Day, Aug 13. § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

SAVILLS PROPERTY INVESTMENT 20 Grosvenor Hill - Berkeley Sq - London W1X 0HQ Telephone 01-499 8644 - Telex 263796

Main market price table with columns for Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, and various market indices. Includes sections for British Funds, Commercial and Industrial, Commonwealth and Foreign, Local Authorities, Foreign Stocks, Dollar Stocks, Banks and Discounts, Breweries and Distilleries, Financial Trusts, Shipping, Mines, Rubber, and Tea.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured, featuring the text 'New L Property' and other illegible text.

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State steel threat of increased coal imports as home supplies fall short

By Peter Hill
Threats have been made by the British Steel Corporation to increase substantially its imports of coking coal as a result of the failure of the National Coal Board to meet its supply targets this year.

The state steel undertaking and the Central Electricity Generating Board are the chief consumers of domestic coal. The BSC is seriously concerned about the present shortfall in supply. This is the most serious constraint on the BSC's ability to meet the continued buoyant demand for steel in the aftermath of the three-day week earlier this year.

Although the BSC was reluctant to give details of the exchange, the steel industry chief is understood to have underlined the gravity of the situation facing the BSC and made it clear that unless supplies are stepped up quickly the corporation will be forced to make large increases in purchasing from overseas suppliers at considerably increased prices.

Spreckley sells City property 'for £11m-£12m'

Charles Spreckley Industries, the property development, shopfitting and contracting group, has sold Britannia House in Old Bailey, on the edge of the City, for a sum believed to be between £11m and £12m. It contains about 47,000 sq ft of modernized office space. The buyer has not been named.

Barclays Bank has taken a 35-year lease on the premises. The proceeds of the sale will provide a useful prop for the Spreckley balance sheet. The latest set of published accounts for the year to June 30, 1973, showed short-term borrowings of more than £30m against shareholders' funds of only £12.4m.

New London Properties Limited

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT—YEAR ENDED 25/3/74

The Directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 2.6733p to make a total dividend for the year of 6.615p, after adding tax credit, which compares with 6.3p (equivalent) for the preceding year. The increase is the maximum permitted under the Companies (Dividends) Order, 1973.

Without the aid of capitalisation of development expenditure and after charging the cost of revaluing its properties, the net revenue before tax is increased by 5 per cent and the dividend is covered 1.5 times. Capital commitments have been kept in line with long-term finance from the Company's own resources and liquidity has been maintained.

Flat sales during the year realised £836,985 after selling expenses and purchases totalled £887,747. Sites under development were financed in a total of £807,831 from bank facilities of £3,000,000 available for approximately a further three years.

The Directors consider that the value put upon the property portfolio at 25th March, 1973, which equated to a net asset value of 287.5p per 25p ordinary share, is not significantly changed at 25th March, 1974.

The accounts subject to audit for the year ended 25th March, 1974, show:

	1974	1973
Fixed Assets at Book Value	£7,787,000	£7,311,000
Current Assets	£2,574,000	£2,193,000
Current Liabilities and Provisions	£1,836,000	£1,474,000
Income from Rentals and other sources	£1,194,000	£1,037,000
Outgoing, Interest and Expenses	£530,000	£501,000
Taxation	£286,500	£185,000
Net Revenue after Taxation	£277,500	£350,000
Dividends paid and proposed	£188,000	£218,000
Earnings per Ordinary Share	6.72p	8.48p

Annual General Meeting, Thursday, 12th September, 1974

Final dividends will be paid on 13th September, 1974, to those shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 23rd August, 1974.

Shipbuilding protest at Benn tactics on takeover

Britain's shipbuilding industry yesterday accused the Government of a lack of consultation over its plans for nationalization including a large number of other companies engaged in shipbuilding and marine engineering.

The allegation was made by Mr Cliff Baylis, director of the Shipbuilders' and Repairers' National Association (SRNA). He said: "The industries have not been afforded the degree of consultation which they could reasonably expect."

Speaking at a press conference in London, Mr Baylis said that Mr Benn's statement had been one of "gloom and despair". Yet it fact there had been enormous improvements in the industry since the mid-1960s. Apart from the improvements in management, industrial relations and the structure of the industry, shipbuilders now had a full order book.

Contrary to the Government's figures on the industry's share of the world market (3.6 per cent last year), in the first half of this year deliveries of ships from United Kingdom yards amounted to 5.1 per cent of the world total.

There was every prospect this year, Mr Baylis said, of the industry achieving an output level of 1.4 million tons gross (and possibly more). This would be the highest recorded since the war and reflected the improvements initiated within the industry.

Emphasizing that the SRNA had every intention of pressing Mr Benn to discuss alternatives during the forthcoming talks on the Government's discussion paper, Mr Baylis stated: "We believe the industry is in a better shape than in the past 20 years and is in a position to make real progress. This possibility has been completely hidden by Mr Benn's statement."

Unlike other industries, he continued, shipbuilding operations were based on competing internationally and it was inconceivable that a nationalized shipbuilding industry could cope with the problems this entailed.

Asked about the level of competition which the Government would be involved in paying to shipbuilding companies if nationalization became a reality, Mr Baylis said that it would run into "hundreds of millions of pounds". He pointed out that the Government would also be required to finance considerable capital investment.

The Treasury is in a move unpopular with the savings banks, who fear further losses of funds—has decided to respond to popular demands of small investors by issuing new securities in denominations as low as \$1,000 (about £417).

The Treasury has been holding to minimum denominations of \$10,000, which has effectively excluded many small investors from the Treasury securities market.

But recent weekly bill auctions have shown an immense demand for even \$10,000

Treasury bills from private investors, and this has probably influenced the Treasury's decision.

The savings banks, which cannot offer the same attractive rates as the Treasury, have in recent weeks been suffering from substantial "disintermediation" the technical term for a transfer of funds from the savings and mortgage banks into institutions which offer yields more directly related to the money market.

There have been serious worries by banks that the Treasury would not fully refund its large volume of notes now maturing, totalling £2.4 billion, because of private sales of Treasury securities to foreign countries.

Mr Jack Bennett, the

Financial Editor, page 23

Financial Editor, page 23

Stock Exchange Council seeks brokers' help to investigate specific 'insider' share deals

By Maurice Barnfather
Stock Exchange investigation into specific "insider" share dealings in future will be more widely publicized. The SE Council aims to seek the involvement of brokers who may not actually have dealt in a specific stock but may have information relevant to an inquiry.

Yesterday the council announced it had authorized inquiries into dealings in four separate issues: George Kent; Coley-Rotolo Group; Marl Investment; and Dexion-Comino International.

Previously, the council confirmed that it was inquiring into certain situations only when it felt it to be necessary, notably when news of an inquiry had already leaked out.

The investigation into share dealings in George Kent covers the period between June 27 and July 1 when the shares rose 15 1/2p to 22 1/2p. On July 1, Kent announced that a Scheme of Arrangement had been proposed by Brown, Boveri of Switzerland, which would mean the formation of a new group, involving 53 per cent by BB and 47 per cent by existing Kent shareholders.

Dealings in Coley-Rotolo between July 2 and 17 when the shares climbed by 12p to 34p, followed by a cash bid of 45p from F. H. Lloyd Holdings, are also being looked at.

Marl Investment announced on June 6 that it was to be part of a three-way merger with the Guthrie Corporation and Guthrie & Co. Dealings in the shares between June 3 and June 8 are being investigated. By Friday, June 7, the shares had risen by 40p to 86p.

In the case of Dexion-Comino, the investigation covers the period between July 22 and 24. On July 22 Interlake Inc said it would bid for Dexion but

withdrew the full-scale offer two days later, during which period Dexion's shares fell 1p to 28 1/2p. They had risen 12 1/2p ahead of the bid.

In its weekly bulletin the Stock Exchange says: "Member firms who dealt during these periods are being requested to provide information about their transactions. Other firms who may have information relevant to these inquiries including information about approaches which did not result in transactions being effected are asked to get in touch with the Secretary to the Special Committee, the Membership Department."

ARCO is much smaller, with about 450 filling stations and 8,000 industrial customers in the South-east. The companies said discussions on sale of the entire share capital of ARCO were under way but had not been finalized.

Profits are becoming more difficult to make in the depressed European market for refined oil products. This particularly applies to companies that have no access to cheap equity oil and must meet their requirements from the much more expensive participation crudes.

ARCO has no refining facilities in the United Kingdom and buys most of its supplies under long-term contracts. Total on the other hand, has a half share in the 9 million tons a year Lindsey oil refinery on Humberside and has made a joint application with Burmah Oil for a new refinery at Cliffe in Kent.

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Spain sets Euromoney deals limit

Steps have been taken by the Bank of Spain to control the scale of operations by Spanish banks in the Eurocurrency markets. It is the first overt move by a central bank to reflect growing concern about the risks involved in allowing commercial banks free rein in such an unregulated field.

There has been no suggestion in the market that Spanish banks have been over-committing themselves, and the new regulations, which took effect yesterday, can be viewed more as precautionary than corrective measures.

It is preventing private banks from taking Eurocurrency deposits beyond a figure equal to double their paid-up capital and reserves.

At the same time it is setting a limit to the risks which Spanish banks can incur through their leading policies. Eurocurrency loans by Spanish banks will be restricted to 5 per cent of their own total deposits or, alternatively, to 20 per cent of the foreign borrower's capital.

But the controls have a wider significance in that the Bank of Spain appears to have taken a step hitherto resisted by other central banks by effectively acknowledging in public its responsibility for the Eurocurrency activity of the banks of its own nationality.

The restrictions will not apply to foreign banks.

Shops, offices, small factories, garages, restaurants, and hotels are mainly affected by the price rises which are confined to customers using less than 100,000 therms a year.

Demand for gas from this type of customer has been particularly strong since oil prices

quadrupled at the end of last year. Over the past few months the corporation has been forced to turn away potential sales of 100 million therms of gas a year because supplies were not available.

The corporation denied yesterday that it was milking industrial and commercial customers to counter the government ban on domestic price rises. All the proposed increases would come within the criteria imposed by the Price Commission, a corporation spokesman said.

He added that the increased prices would go some way towards overcoming distortions in the energy market caused by the unrealistically low price of gas. The corporation would like to impose increases of under 10 per cent on domestic gas bills, which it claims are "urgently needed".

The corporation's proposals for price rises include an "essential rationalization" of existing non-domestic tariffs in the 12 regions. It said these had historical causes and had been preserved and amplified in recent years by price controls which had restricted tariff changes to modest flat percentage increases over the whole field.

Under the new tariffs the biggest customers will pay the highest percentage increases while small businesses will be affected to the minimum possible extent. All regions are to introduce a minimum price of 12p a therm to general purpose tariffs and there will also be special rates for industrial customers using gas for central heating, hot water supply or air conditioning.

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20 pc increase in gas prices being sought for small industrial users

By Our Energy Correspondent
Gas for small industrial and commercial customers will cost an average of 20 per cent more if an application by British Gas to the Price Commission is successful.

Domestic gas prices are still pegged at the request of the Secretary of State for Energy and large industrial and commercial consumers with individual contracts containing price escalation clauses are also unaffected.

The British Gas Corporation said yesterday that the increases would produce an extra £33m in revenue. This was not enough to restore the corporation to the profit-making situation to the current financial year.

Next month the corporation will announce a loss of £41m for last year and without increases in domestic tariffs will continue in a loss-making situation.

Shops, offices, small factories, garages, restaurants, and hotels are mainly affected by the price rises which are confined to customers using less than 100,000 therms a year.

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Total bids for Arco's outlets in Britain

By Roger Vielvoye
Total Oil, the United Kingdom subsidiary of a French oil company, is negotiating to buy the marketing activities in Britain of the American-based Atlantic Richfield Co. of Los Angeles.

The French-owned company has 800 retail outlets for petrol, mainly on Humberside, the Mersey, the Midlands and the South-east and is the seventh largest retailing company in the country. It also has extensive industrial oil marketing activities.

ARCO is much smaller, with about 450 filling stations and 8,000 industrial customers in the South-east. The companies said discussions on sale of the entire share capital of ARCO were under way but had not been finalized.

Profits are becoming more difficult to make in the depressed European market for refined oil products. This particularly applies to companies that have no access to cheap equity oil and must meet their requirements from the much more expensive participation crudes.

ARCO has no refining facilities in the United Kingdom and buys most of its supplies under long-term contracts. Total on the other hand, has a half share in the 9 million tons a year Lindsey oil refinery on Humberside and has made a joint application with Burmah Oil for a new refinery at Cliffe in Kent.

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Mersey dock strikers spurn agreed pay offer

Three-hundred maintenance engineers and fitters whose six-week-old unofficial strike has been bringing the port of Liverpool to a halt, yesterday turned down the latest offer by their employers, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

The offer had been agreed to last Friday at a meeting between senior management and district officials of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The offer included a lump sum of £50 a man on resumption of work, followed by pay increases being negotiated.

Last night the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company said the jobs of the 300 men and those of many more in the port were in jeopardy. "If we are to avoid losing further vast sums of revenue and save these jobs we must get our facilities at the Royal Seaford Dock and in other crippled areas operating immediately."

\$1,000 Treasury bills blow to savings banks

From Frank Vogl, Washington, Aug 1
Demand for United States Treasury bills, notes and bonds is now extremely strong in view of the general economic uncertainty.

The Treasury—in a move unpopular with the savings banks, who fear further losses of funds—has decided to respond to popular demands of small investors by issuing new securities in denominations as low as \$1,000 (about £417).

The Treasury has been holding to minimum denominations of \$10,000, which has effectively excluded many small investors from the Treasury securities market.

But recent weekly bill auctions have shown an immense demand for even \$10,000

Treasury Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs, said that such sales were likely to Saudi Arabia and that in the event of their taking place the Treasury would reduce the volume of public securities it placed on offer.

Mr William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, has recently discussed the sale of non-marketable Treasury notes with leaders in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

But such new sales have not yet taken place, and the Treasury is more than refunding its maturing notes.

It announced that it would auction next Tuesday a total of \$2,250m of notes maturing on May 15, 1976, and on Wednesday it will auction \$1,750m of notes due on August 15, 1980.

The Treasury also plans to auction on Thursday \$400m of 8.5 per cent bonds which mature in 1999. It will announce coupon rates for the notes issues tomorrow.

It announced that it planned to increase the volume of its weekly bills sold at the auction next week to \$4,700m from the \$4,500m seen recently.

Franklin staff cuts: The Franklin National Bank is expected to announce major staff rationalization plans, as well as announcing that the suspension on trading in its securities and those of its parent company, the Franklin New York Corporation, will be continued for a further 10 days.

Bank officials state that cuts of up to 600 in the total staff of 3,700 are under study.

Bonn sees lower inflation

Mainz, Aug 1.—A fall in West Germany's inflation rate to between 4 and 5 per cent from current levels of around 7 to 7 1/2 per cent is possible in the foreseeable future, Dr Ormar Emminger, vice-president of the Federal Bank, said on television.

Asked whether Germany was headed for 5 per cent rates of both inflation and unemployment, he said this figure might be achieved for inflation but not for unemployment.

A cutback in inflation did not mean a deflation, Dr Emminger said. The Federal Bank's stability policy must be continued in a flexible way, taking account of new developments. The Bank had eased up slightly in its policy recently in response to changing conditions.

The economy is expected to remain subdued in the second half of the year with a growth rate of 1 1/2 to 2 per cent, Dr Emminger said.

Commenting on the downturn in the housebuilding industry, he said prices may have to be reduced to help move unsold houses. The state could get compensation retrospectively for the building industry's mistakes. A "cleansing crisis" is necessary in this sector to provide a sound basis for the future.

Questioned in the same programme on the union's attitude to anti-inflationary policies, Herr Eugen Loderer, chairman of Germany's largest union, IG Metall, said they could not be expected to accept a cut in their wage increases when inflation was running at 7 per cent.

Reuter.

Oil shares lead markets down to another low

Another day of gloom in the stock market brought pressure on oil shares, upset by Wall Street's weakness and publication in London of a bearish investment circular. BP fell 20p to 32 1/2p, and sharp falls were registered in Burmah Oil (24 1/2p) and Shell (17 1/2p).

Among the leading industrial stocks, bear closing proved insufficient to fuel recovery attempts. The FT index closed 0.7 off at a fresh 15-year low of 235.7, while the Times index showed a loss of 1.5 points at 92.71.

Financial share sections remained unsettled following the rumours of insurance industry troubles. Shares in Prudential Assurance held steady, but there were minor losses among other groups.

Tunnel panel chief
Sir Alec Cairncross, Master of St Peter's College, Oxford, who was head of the Government Economic Service for five years until 1969, is to be chairman of the independent advisers who will reassess the Channel Tunnel project.

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Critical view of worker participation

By Raymond Perman, Labour Staff
An independent body with members in both management and unions today urges caution in moves towards worker participation in control of factories.

The body, the Institute of Management and Unions, says that members of the Cabinet and MPs concerned with industrial policy

Survey charts growth of monopoly power in path of big mergers

By Maurice Corina
 he associated with the highest levels of change in concentration of supply.

In a separate and much more comprehensive report, published yesterday by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, Mr G. Walsh, a leading expert on monopolies, says that a survey of 32 products within the groups of manufactured goods showed that in 10 cases "mergers were an important tool used to prevent the erosion of market shares once market power had been obtained by internal growth."

The Monopolies Commission had not yet been asked to investigate many of the products where monopoly power was a serious matter. These included little import competition.

Permanent monopoly surveillance was required over the many groups of product where concentration of supply had been obtained by acquisitions.

Meriden needs cramp Small Heath plans

By Clifford Webb
 Negotiations between the Triumph workers' cooperative and Norton Villiers Triumph are proving more difficult than expected, they could drag on for several weeks.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson, managing director of Jaguar and the cooperative's part-time adviser, spent most of yesterday in a further round of talks with Mr Dennis Poore, the NVT chairman.

It is understood that the Government's £4.95m combined grant and loan to the cooperative to purchase the Meriden factory is causing concern among workers at NVT's Small Heath factory. This is understood to have figured prominently in yesterday's negotiations.

The Small Heath men have, however, been placed in a difficult position, because of the public support for the cooperative. This is understood to have figured prominently in yesterday's negotiations.

Mr Poore, who is the leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union. For this reason they are refusing to voice their desirability in public.

Japanese group to assemble TV sets in Cardiff

By Edward Townsend
 Moves to restrict Japanese colour television imports to Britain have been followed by an announcement from Matsushita Electric Industrial of plans to set up an assembly plant in the United Kingdom.

The new factory, to be built on the outskirts of Cardiff, will employ about 250 workers and it is planned to produce 5,000 sets a month starting early in 1976.

A new company, Matsushita Electric (UK), has been formed with a paid-up share capital of £2m and has bought 10 acres of land from the Cardiff City Council.

Matsushita, which has promised that the project will be "a British enterprise in its true sense", is to sell its Welsh television sets on the domestic and European markets through National Panasonic (UK), Matsushita's existing distributor. British components are to be used "to the maximum extent practicable".

Mini-Budget 'has boosted electrical appliance sales'

Mr Denis Healey's mini-Budget has already given a spurt to electrical appliance sales, one of the industry's leaders, one of the industry's leaders, one of the industry's leaders.

Mr Michael Colston, chairman of the Colston Group, said in London that orders for all the company's products had been placed at a faster rate in the last two or three weeks than during the past three months.

Since May, automatic washing machines and spin drier orders had doubled.

But Mr Colston told the Institute of Directors he was disappointed the Chancellor's measures did not include a relaxation in hire purchase deposit regulations "because although a reduction in VAT was helpful it will not have the immediate effect that is needed in the appliance industry out of the doldrums."

The mini-Budget had removed uncertainty but Mr Colston criticized the government for using the domestic appliance industry as "the economic whipping boy" for fiscal policies.

BSC aims to compete for N Sea pipe orders

By Peter Hill
 The British Steel Corporation aims to secure a larger share of the market for submarine pipes for North Sea oil and gas development programmes by investing between £40m-£50m in a new pipe mill.

This somewhat belated attempt by the state-owned steel undertaking to regain business lost to its overseas competitors, principally the Japanese and Italians, stems from improvements in the BSC's own techniques and from the encouragingly high success rate by the oil companies engaged in offshore exploration in the North Sea.

No firm decisions have yet been taken by the corporation, but it is believed that the plans involve an expansion of its existing pipe manufacturing facility at Hartlepool and the establishment of a new plant on the North East coast.

The BSC is planning to spend in excess of £1,000m in the development of its facilities at Redcar as part of its 10-year development strategy, although it is not clear whether the new pipe mill under consideration is included in the original budget.

While the BSC has supplied some 90 per cent of the casing and tubing for wells in the North Sea, and practically all the pipes for offshore oil and gas, it has managed to supply only 20 per cent of the undersea pipe for offshore oil and gas. The corporation admits that it has fallen down in this particular area.

The BSC now claims to have overcome the technical problems and as a first step is planning to lift the capability of its mill at Hartlepool to deal with pipes one inch thick, and as a further development to establish a new mill which will be capable of handling pipes of up to two inches.

Construction of the new plant is expected to take between two and three years but BSC believes that it will be able to gain a firmer foothold in the market in view of the continued discovery of new fields and the upgrading of the capacity of many of the existing fields in the North Sea. Such a new facility would also assist BSC in competing for overseas contracts for offshore developments in other parts of the world.

HP contracts for new cars fell 24pc in July

Almost 24 per cent fewer hire purchase contracts on new cars were taken out in the United Kingdom last month compared with June. The total of 16,658 was 39 per cent below the figure for July, last year.

The used car market received a slight boost in July, however, and 62,772 vehicles were bought on hire purchase. This was a 4 per cent rise on June's figure but still 12 per cent down on the 71,549 for a year ago.

According to Hire Purchase Information, total motor vehicle hire-purchase contracts for July were 102,476, a slight drop on the June total of 103,053 but 17 per cent below that for July, 1973.

The motor cycle market continued to expand in July with 3,565 contracts taken out on new machines compared with 3,105 in June. Contracts on new commercial vehicles were down by 15 per cent on last year at 4,478.

Britain drinking more wine

Wine consumption in Britain in January was 17 per cent higher this year than in 1973, the Wine and Spirit Association reported yesterday. Mr David Rutherford, chairman of the association, said that the effects of changes in duty and value-added tax later this year had still to be assessed.

Table wines from Yugoslavia and Italy trebled from January to January, with Portuguese table wines and French sparkling wines at double the 1973 levels.

CBI's 53rd industrial trends survey, July 1974

Total trade		7	43	50
1. Are you, or less, temporarily, than you were four months ago about the general business situation in your industry?		7	43	50
2. Do you expect to authorize more or less capital expenditure in the next twelve months than you authorized in the past twelve months?		21	30	43
3. In your present level of output below capacity, i.e., are you working below a satisfactory full rate of operation?		54	44	1

Number of orders		24	51	25	21	60	15	
4. Number of orders		24	51	25	21	60	15	
5. Value of total orders		30	30	28	2	33	40	34
6. Value of output		53	28	17	2	45	39	16
7. Stocks etc. a. new materials and brought in supplies		45	36	17	2	18	49	30
b. finished goods		29	39	22	10	21	47	21
8. Average stock as % of output		63	4	3	89	8	4	2
9. Average price at which domestic orders are booked		77	17	2	3	70	28	2

What factors are likely to limit your output over the next four months? Please tick the most important factor or factors.		44	41	18	15	8	47	4
10. What factors are likely to limit your output over the next four months? Please tick the most important factor or factors.		44	41	18	15	8	47	4

Safeguards for pensions legislation

By Margaret Stone
 To help prepare pensions legislation, the Occupational Pensions Board has, at the request of Mrs Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, prepared a detailed questionnaire covering solvency, the disclosure of information, and the extent to which members should become involved in running their pension schemes.

To some extent there is an overlap between the three subjects under review, particularly in respect of disclosure and member involvement.

The most important question, however, appears to be the one on solvency—whether statutory provisions should be made for supervising occupational pension schemes to ensure that their benefit obligations can be met.

At the moment there are no legal requirements covering the ability of pension schemes to meet their obligations; the emphasis in the past has been on ensuring that pension schemes do not pay out too much.

Limited solvency provisions, however, were included in the Social Security Act, 1973, much of which has subsequently been suspended by Mrs Castle.

The disclosure question centres on how much information about pension schemes should be made available to members.

Fairly detailed provisions along these lines were recommended last year by the Confederation of British Industry, and part of the survey's task will be to see how far CBI members have progressed.

Member involvement in occupational pension schemes touches upon a theme which has so far received little official attention.

The questionnaire has taken note of Mrs Castle's preoccupation about pension rights in the pension field, and specifically asks in what extent women members are or should be actively involved as either trustees or representatives.

Mitsubishi signs pact with Saudis

Tokyo, Aug. 1.—Mitsubishi, the Japanese industrial group, today announced agreement with Saudi Arabia's state-run petroleum and mineral corporation (Petromin) to build a petrochemical complex there by 1980.

The \$3,000m (£1,250m) complex, including an oil refinery and an ethylene centre, will be put up at Al Jubayl and owned jointly by Saudi Arabia and the Japanese group.

The Mitsubishi Corporation, speaking for the group, said it hoped to seek financing from Saudi Arabia for the giant project, but no negotiations had yet taken place with Petromin.

The Japanese daily newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*, reported that the group had opened talks with the Saudi Arabian corporation to borrow "oil dollars" accumulating in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is planning the project as a national enterprise. It is probable that the Japanese side could stand to obtain a Saudi Arabian loan from oil funds at low interest, Mitsubishi said.

Reuter and Agence France Presse.

Soaring petrol costs a brake on US motorists

New York, Aug. 1.—The high price of oil products appears to be trimming United States demand for fuels—even petrol.

Most oil industry executives and outside economists believed American motorists would sustain demand for petrol, no matter how high the price.

But Mr Alan Greenspan, the New York economic consultant who is President Nixon's nominee for chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, calculates that in recent weeks petrol demand per vehicle has begun to fall.

Mr Greenspan said the level of November, 1973, the last "normal" month before the Arab embargo restricted supplies.

The higher price is the reason, says Mr Greenspan, who was an early disseminator of the theory that American petrol demand would fall.

But many oilmen are still not convinced. Mr Harry Bridges, president of Shell Oil, said: "Our feeling is that the American consumer is not going to be deterred enough by high prices to change his driving habits."

AP-Duw Jones.

Synthetic production.—Production of synthetic petroleum will start in the United States this year, Mr Williams Moffe, senior executive of the Gulf Oil and Standard Oil of Indiana group said in Caracas, Venezuela.—Reuter.

Italians warned: Exports must finance oil costs

Rome, August 1.—Signor Emilio Colombo, the Italian treasury minister, is confident that the Government's economic policy can eliminate the country's non-oil balance of payments deficit by the end of 1975. But the problem of financing the oil deficit will remain.

Commenting on the 1975 budget, which foresees a contained deficit of 7,373,000m lire (about £4,915m), Signor Colombo said that Italy would be able to have recourse to international loans for a number of years to finance the oil deficit.

In the longer-term, however, the greater part of dearer oil costs must be financed by increased exports with the proceeds of higher production being channelled into meeting the oil bill.

US newsprint makers raising prices up to 15pc

Washington, Aug. 1
 American newsprint manufacturers are raising prices by around 10 per cent to 15 per cent, effective in some cases tomorrow.

They have made a pledge to the Cosr of Living Council not to raise prices for a couple of months. Now that they are free of this commitment, they are making up prices to around \$226 a ton from \$200 for 32lb newsprint.

The rate of price increases over the past year has been dramatic, with average levels around 51% a ton in mid-1973.

The manufacturers justify the increases by claiming production costs have been rising fast in recent months;

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hastening London's industrial decline

From Mr Illyd Harrington
 Sir, The Minister of State for Industry has announced his intention of lowering the exemption level for industrial development certificates in the South East, including London, from 10,000 to 5,000 sq ft. This in fact returns it to the level from which it was raised in 1972 in order to give the economy a boost and to reduce the very high level of unemployment that was running then.

Given the present state of the economy I must say that so far as London is concerned, this seems a particularly unfortunate time to be making a move in the opposite direction, reinforced as it is by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget proposal to double the amount of the industrial employment premium. It would make sense only if London were enjoying an industrial boom and could afford to lose some of its industry to other parts of the country.

But the fact is that London is already suffering from a rapid industrial decline, losing 400,000 manufacturing jobs be-

between 1961 and 1971, no less than a quarter of the total.

In 1971-72 over 70,000 manufacturing jobs disappeared—one out of every 16 in one single year. Losses of this sort produce intolerable strains, particularly for the older areas and for their workers who have traditionally been dependent upon manufacturing for their livelihood.

We do not shut our eyes to the needs of the assisted areas. We understand their problems only too well and we do not help which they get from the Government. But we have long since reached the point where London can no longer afford to go on losing more and more of its industry to the rest of the country.

It is important to note that our strong concern about the situation is not just some "bee in the bonnet" of the Greater London Council. It is shared by the London borough councils and by the London Chamber of Commerce; and I note from your columns that the CBI regards this latest change in the IDC level as likely to be particularly damaging to the interests of smaller businesses here

without providing any compensating benefits in the assisted areas.

There is perhaps one ray of hope. Mr Heffer is reported to have stressed that, although the operation of IDC control is being tightened, modernization and improvement of industrial premises in inner city areas will be sympathetically considered and that his department will be responsive to local problems.

The guidance notes for London and the South East published by the department in June last year left the door ajar for applications to be considered sympathetically in areas where there are special employment difficulties.

I hope that is still the case. What is needed, especially now that the control limit is being further tightened, is a clear recognition that such areas exist in London, and that there is also a great danger that others will soon be added to them.

Yours faithfully,
 ILLYD HARRINGTON,
 Deputy Leader of the Greater London Council,
 The County Hall,
 London SE1 7PB.

Drawbacks of the Lump

From Mr B. I. Mordisley
 Sir, I have read with interest your correspondence regarding the Lump. Mrs Pegg (July 11) states that her husband and the men in his group are all registered with exemption certificates, and pay their tax and national insurance. They may not be unique but they are certainly not typical!

The Inland Revenue claims to lose a great deal of tax annually as does the National Insurance scheme, and the current prosecutions of Lump workers for evasion of tax support that position.

Also Mrs Pegg states that the men rarely have first aid on site. This is not a virtue, because it is in the field of safety where some of the greatest problems arise.

After an accident there is the problem of redress: there is a lower duty of care owed to the self-employed, and the workers have no employer to sue and their own negligence is not supported by the vicarious liability of an employer, who will be likely to have insurance in contrast to the individual himself.

This could be serious not only for fellow workers but also for totally unconnected third parties. The self-employed is also unable to claim industrial injuries benefit, which is very important when there may be nobody who is legally liable, and one must note the rather unimpressive safety record of the building industry. Short-sightedness in favour of income at the expense of safety is an undesirable policy.

There is also evidence that the Lump leads to a decline in the training of suitable workers in the industry. This is inevitably linked to the decline in quality of work done by some workers on the Lump, who can be difficult to locate if a defect occurs after work has been completed!

Apart from all this the very existence of Lump labour has a deleterious effect on full-time employees because the earnings gap so disparate (in some cases Lump labour obtains five times as much).

A complete reappraisal of the situation would level out the range of earnings and would ensure stability and continuity of employment for all workers in the industry.

Therefore it would not be absurd to abolish the Lump—its very existence leads to disension in the industry.

Yours faithfully,
 B. I. MORDISLEY,
 Law Department,
 City of London Polytechnic,
 Moorgate, EC2.

Minicomputer policy

From Mr Gerald Cain
 Sir, Kenneth Owen's July 26 article on European minicomputer policy highlights an area of the computer industry which has been of particular interest to us at the PCL for some time now.

During the past two years we have offered a series of courses, conferences and exhibitions specifically relating to minicomputer technology. The industry response to these activities (with a total of well over 2,000 industrial and governmental participants) has demonstrated the enormous appeal of the minis to potential users with an extensive range of application backgrounds.

It has been our experience that, throughout Europe (a third of our participants were visitors from outside the United Kingdom, two major courses of ours were held in Florence, Italy, and half of the requests for courses and publications have come from Europe), there has been a scarcity of expertise and practical implementation information on minicomputer systems.

Economic considerations, accelerating technical capabilities and increasing acceptability of the mini as just another electronic work aid have nevertheless spurred market penetration.

In spite of substantial and sustained growth rates, some fields such as telecommunications and commercial applications are still relatively untapped. And the impact of the next wave—microcomputers—is yet to be felt.

Certainly as both Mr Donald Harrison, of the Department of Industry, indicated at the recent press opening of our MiniFest '74 exhibition and Mr Owen's article points out, it is now time to consider what incentives and planning measures are needed for the industry.

There is a danger that too much emphasis will be laid upon the importance of indigenous minicomputer mainframe manufacture. The pro-

portion of total system cost attributable to the mainframe machine is even now almost negligible—the real wealth-producing capacity offered by minis lies in specialised peripheral equipment manufacture and cost-effective system integration.

Restrictive hardware purchasing policy would be counter-productive in this environment. Britain's own enviable prominence in European minicomputer circles has been comfortably fostered in a domestic marketplace dominated by foreign mainframe manufacturers.

Serious efforts should be invested in establishing a framework of realistic and flexible electrical interfacing, data communication and software standards, so that multi-supplier system configurations can thrive.

However, the goal of a "standard" cure-all system albeit highly modularized, seems questionable in a technology of such breakneck speed. Some communities of suppliers already exist—for example, the CAMAC standard interface manufacturers—but such commonality tends to be expensive, and certainly does not solve everyone's problems.

Networking with large-scale computers and with widely dispersed minicomputers has proven to be both technically and economically desirable; and has led to an upsurge of interest in networks such as that recently expressed by the Science Research Council.

Investigations into the potential of localized networks of heterogeneous minicomputers (like the National Physical Laboratory network and PCL's Project MININET) are similarly encouraging.

It is probably true that Europe's telecommunication policy will ultimately affect its computer industry far more than its computer policy.

GERALD D. CAIN,
 Senior Lecturer,
 Polytechnic of Central London,
 115 New Cavendish Street,
 London, W.1.

Brewing for pleasure

From Mr Vance O'Reilly
 Sir, I have just returned from a stay in Denmark and I feel that attention should be drawn to the remarkable difference between the attitudes of brewers in Denmark, namely Carlsbergs, and of those in England.

Originally Carl Jacobsen donated his New Carlsberg Brewery to the Carlsberg Foundation founded by his father, and when, in 1969, Carlsberg and Tuborg were amalgamated, the Carlsberg Foundation received shares in each of the new entities and the earnings of the foundation, including the dividends on these shares, were and still are dedicated to the promotion and support of the arts and sciences. All over Denmark there are monuments and buildings donated by this foundation.

In an unselfish attitude Denmark's brewery not only provides what is a refreshing beverage but also an environ-

ment rich in beauty. Inside the museums are collections of the finest art, which are well maintained and which everybody is welcome to view.

How delightful it would be to see areas like Burton and Aston take on a transformation, without being solely conscious of personal gain.

With amalgamations and take-overs by the big organizations, who are benefiting from the enormous sales in this country? Certainly not the drinkers!

In a world full of distress and such selfishness, why is it pleasant-gesture it would be to share in beauty with others. Then perhaps next time a pint of draught is flushed away we will be able to boast that "we" are drinking for art and science.

Yours faithfully,
 VANCE P. O'REILLY,
 Flat 3,
 193 Northborough Road,
 Leicester,
 July 31.

SECURICOR PROFIT UP 33%

Unaudited results for the six months to March 29, 1974 of Securicor Group Ltd (Incorporating Security Services Ltd) and Security Services Ltd (Incorporating Securicor Ltd)

	SECURICOR GROUP		SECURITY SERVICES	
	1974	1973	1974	1973
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£	£	£	£
Finance Division	271,000	145,000	92,000	56,000
Security Division	1,057,000	855,000	1,057,000	855,000
Tax (estimated)	1,328,000	1,000,000	1,149,000	911,000
	676,000	427,000	583,000	389,000
NET PROFIT AFTER TAX	652,000	573,000	566,000	522,000
Deduct: Interests of Minority Shareholders	273,000	246,000		
	379,000	327,000		
Interim dividend (payable September 27th, 1974)	2.025%	1.80%	4.556%	4.050%
Preference dividend (payable September 27th, 1974)	1.166%	1.00%		

INTERIM DIVIDENDS have been raised by the maximum 12½% now permitted to 2.025% (1.80%) for Securicor Group and 4.556% (4.050%) for Security Services. The group has hitherto followed a modest dividend policy but the board now considers investors should receive as much benefit as the present law allows. The net cost of these distributions will be £21,681 (£20,135) to Securicor Group and £77,837 (£72,291) to Security Services.

GROUP TURNOVER for the half year in Britain and overseas was 21% higher at £21.9m (£18.1m). Overseas improvement, including growth of profitability in Europe, is continuing.

— PETER SMITH
 Chairman.

BRICKHOUSE DUDLEY

Manufacturers and distributors of a complete range of road and inspection manhole covers and frames, gully grates, steel ducting, engineering, heating and builders castings, drainage and water pipes.

ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH

Points from the Accounts and Statement of the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. J. Goodridge.

Manufacturing and Merchandising Divisions greatly enlarged by expansion and acquisitions, as a result turnover has increased from £4,621,000 to £8,238,000. Group profit before taxation (and pre-acquisition adjustment) £1,159,000 against £843,000. Total dividend for the year 3.213p per share net compared with 3.15p.

One-for-one Scrip Issue and authorised capital increased from £900,000 to £2 million.

Group in a much stronger position and every indication that there will be a further improvement in profits during the current year.

GROVELAND ROAD,
 TIPTON, STAFFS.

سكوتز الاصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Reed and the boom in world paper demand

It has been a dangerous game over the past couple of years to assume that there could be no more rabbits to pull out of the hat. Yesterday's first quarter figures, with the pre-tax total up by almost 75 per cent, was enough to leave the analysts gasping for breath—once again.

If anything was predictable, it was that the common thread among both the United Kingdom and overseas operations would be a strong demand for paper and packaging, and second, that it would be the overseas side that would be making most of this year's roaring.

And so it turns out, with the overseas companies hitting their pre-tax profit of £5.3m to £12.4m, or roughly 48 per cent of pre-interest total, up from £1.6m to £2.6m. But that still leaves a good performance by the home activities, the pre-tax profit margin more than a quarter to the good at £13.6m. And the story here is that apart from the strength of the paper and packaging businesses decorative products have done well, while building materials and TPC appear to have more than held their own with the Odebas dispute mainly affecting the second quarter.

Whether one should be relying on more than a marginal improvement in United Kingdom profits for the full year is an open question, but it does appear to be sufficient momentum overseas to suggest that Reed should top £80m pre-tax for the full year. In that case one is talking of a prospective p/e ratio of well under 5 and a yield of 7½ per cent with the shares at 204½—a price that is well below a significant reversal in international paper demand in 1975 to upset given the likely supply situation.

First quarter: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £122.2m (£122.2m)
Sales £223.3m (£165m)
Pre-tax profits £22.3m (£12.8m)

Helical Bar Abingworth's terms

Yesterday's news from Helical Bar illustrates some of the problems facing shareholders of small companies attempting to finance large-scale expansion in these unpropitious times. The group successfully revamped under its present management in 1973 to a £300,000, a large amount relative to a pre-tax market capitalization of just £610,000.

Of this £150,000 is to be raised via an issue of convertible stock to Abingworth, a recently formed investment group whose shareholders include a director of Helical and 12 financial institutions including Barclays Bank and a couple of insurance companies. The other half is to come from a 3 for 10 rights issue at 29p per share underwritten by Abingworth.

While the group is fortunate to have found so ready a backer for its plans, shareholders should approach the deal with a degree of suspicion of the rights issue. It is a conversion issue of one share for one share, and the loan stockholder converts next year. Abingworth could end up with 34.5 per cent of the group's expanded equity, with all that implies.

Helical's other shareholders. Helical argues that the terms of the convertible are favourable for the group, and certainly the 11 per cent coupon looks well below what might have been offered in a public issue. Nevertheless, a conversion price of 30p (if the stock is converted during the first three years) against the current market price of 33p looks unacceptably generous.

One curious feature of the prospectus is that shareholders

will not be allowed to take up any excess shares from the rights issue over and above their own allotments. Perhaps this is, indeed, the best package that could be arranged given the current tight lending climate, but shareholders should not feel that they are looking a gift horse in the mouth if they question some of the terms.

Accounts: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £0.610m
Net assets £0.798m (£0.605m)
Borrowings £0.26m (£0.10m)
Pre-tax profit £0.466m (£0.079m)
Earnings per share 12.2p (2.8p)

British Sugar The cost of the bad weather

The British Sugar Corporation, in addition to raising its interim dividend by the maximum percentage, has also raised its earlier forecast that full year profits would rise from £7.0m to around £14m. However, this caused little surprise in the market yesterday. What did emerge strongly from the production figures is the probable effect that the bad weather earlier this summer will have on next year's prospects and the virtual certainty of a decline in profits.

While output of white sugar rose from 872,000 to 948,000 tons, some benefits accrued from the first stages of the alignment with EEC sugar pricing policy. But these have not been reflected in the growing stage with beet farmers receiving only 765p a ton compared with the Continental price of 884p.

The Corporation's major worry now is that beet is now a much less attractive crop for the farmer than grain. To bring beet prices into line would mean raising at one step the sugar price from £17 to £18.40 a ton, although the attitude of the Government on this point has yet to emerge.

BSC is increasing its capacity by over 100,000 tons to 1.1 million tons in the expectation of an increased share of the total EEC sugar market. Its hand is being strengthened by the unwillingness of the Commonwealth producers to meet their quotas to the United Kingdom, preferring instead to take advantage of the world price—£277 yesterday. And even if the original commitment to take 1.4 million tons of cane sugar is really a bankable promise, total Community beet acreage will reflect what is likely to be a long term sugar shortage.

But with BSC sugar production likely to drop by 15 per cent next year, the current year's forecast earnings and yield 5.1 per cent (six times covered). As a political high-flyer the shares are attractive now.

Most of this money is in the Securicor Group, which probably explains the higher historic p/e ratio of nearly 15 compared with the 11 times earnings at which SS is selling. Both stand in fall this year, but until one can see what the present rate of growth really is, there should be no rush to buy.

SECURICOR
Interim: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £6.1m
Sales £21.9m (£18.1m)
Pre-tax profits £1.33m (£1m)
Dividend gross 0.51p (0.45p)

SECURITY SERVICES
Interim: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £9.15m
Sales £21.9m (£18.1m)
Pre-tax profits £1.25m (£0.91m)
Dividend gross 1.14p (1.01p)

J. B. Eastwood Poor current half likely

The stock market was going for something over £8m from J. B. Eastwood, got only £6m and nonetheless left the shares unchanged at 30p. That is some achievement these days, and one can only suppose the market was taking a generous view of the stock write-downs. Eastwood is not spelling out yet what these were, but without them the suggestion is that the analysts' estimates would not have been so far out. The shares have in any case already been taking a thoroughly

gloomy view of 1974-5 prospects. The necessity for expert writers down more than just the market's pessimism. Broiler and egg prices had slumped after a period of sharply rising feed prices. At the same time some meat prices had fallen far enough to be newly competitive and chicken consumption was falling. Eastwood was therefore forced to cut back production just when it had spent some £5m on new facilities. These made no contribution in profit but helped to push overdrafts up from £5.5m to £8.3m and interest charges up from £866,000 to £1.3m.

The consequent squeeze on margins has been harsh enough in itself. Eastwood talking of not much more than breaking even in the current half and it has cut back its capital spending to virtually nothing. But at this stage there appear to be some hopes that the second half could see a revival. Feed prices have eased, the broiler market is firming and Eastwood believes it is close to the bottom of the egg price cycle.

The final quarter collapse last year is a pointer to the volatility of profits, however, and it would be unwise to expect anything much more stable from the shares. Both a p/e ratio of 2½ and a net worth, following the £11.6m property revaluation, of close to 90p look largely irrelevant just now.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £7.1m
Sales £106 (£83.3m)
Pre-tax profits £6.03m (£4.80m)
Earnings per share 19.68p
Dividend gross 4.37p (3.62p)

Securicor Profits boost welcome

Although growth had been expected, the stock market welcomed interim profits to March 29 from the Securicor Group and a fifth at its subsidiary Security Services, with rises in the shares of 5p to 95p for Securicor and to 90p for SS.

To what extent the security business benefited from the greatly increased temporary work that came in during the three-day week is unknown. But there were certainly no guard duties to be performed, a greater use of its parcels division during the train go-slow, and even a sharp increase in the policing activities at the mines while they were closed during the dispute. Overseas operations, mainly in Africa and the Far East but with a push into Europe as well, managed perhaps over a fifth of profits from security.

And, of course, there has been a £4.5m addition to cash from the sale of the hotel interests—£500,000 having been used to expand working capital. Spread throughout the money market earning an average rate of 14½ per cent, this should bring in around £630,000 this year.

Most of this money is in the Securicor Group, which probably explains the higher historic p/e ratio of nearly 15 compared with the 11 times earnings at which SS is selling. Both stand in fall this year, but until one can see what the present rate of growth really is, there should be no rush to buy.

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Why the TUC has got it wrong about worker directors

Eric Wigham takes union leaders to task for their views on employee participation

The TUC has now tidied up, filled in and published its report in "Industrial Democracy" which it will present to the Trades Union Congress at Brighton in September. It is my opinion that from the beginning the TUC has taken a wrong turning in its proposals for worker directors.

The case for workers' representatives on the boards of private companies is overwhelming, but they should be workers' directors, not worker directors. They should be chosen to represent their interests by the workers employed by the company but not, as the TUC advocates, from among themselves or their leaders inside the company.

With Mr Andrew Shonfield, I was one of the two members of the Donovan Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations who advocated legislation to enforce the appointment of workers' directors, at a time when TUC representatives were arguing merely that experiments in this direction should be a revival of progress should be on a voluntary basis.

Mr Shonfield and I envisaged that appointments would be made by trade unions active in the company concerned, that the maximum number would be likely to be met with industrial and financial experience or knowledge, or trade union officials, than workers from the bench.

We took it for granted that any union official would be barred from collective bargaining involving the company while he was a member of it. That is, of course, the crux of the matter. A union official must be free to oppose decisions of a board if his members feel strongly enough about it. How can he do that if he is a member of the board which took the decision?

The TUC argues that "there is no necessary conflict between worker-representatives

arguing the case at board level, and then pursuing it at negotiations, representing workpeople's interests at a later stage."

That might be true if a company board were merely a consultative body, but it is not. It is a body that must take decisions. It can hardly do that effectively if its members are not bound by them.

Moreover, it must be remembered that the decisions of a supervisory board—assuming the two-tier structure were adopted—would mainly involve complex questions of investment, location, closures, takeovers and mergers and product specialization, to quote a TUC spokesman. Such matters could not be conveniently dealt with at the bargaining table.

The workers' directors would be there to see that social considerations were given no less weight than financial considerations. That maximum profit was not regarded as the only thing that mattered. The whole board would need to stand together to face criticisms from shareholders no less than from workers.

It would be the part of the job of the workers' directors to understand the attitudes and press the interests of the men who chose them. As our view was expressed in the Donovan Report: "They would be concerned on less than other directors during a rapid tour of the company as a whole. They would report annually to their constituency in the same way as other directors report to shareholders' meetings, and opportunities would be provided

This was not confined to left-wing militants who are against sitting down with capitalists in any circumstances. There were moderates who are unhappy about the possible conflict of loyalties. Some had been thinking of alternatives in the form of some joint union-board body.

Maybe it just happened that I encountered the critics, but it is little over a year since the TUC reversed its old policy on the subject. It would not be surprising if a greater effort were made before its new ideas permeate the movement.

There are a number of gaps in the TUC report. The workers' representatives, it says, would be elected "through trade union machinery". But what machinery? Who would settle the competing claims of unions of managers, technicians, clerical workers, craftsmen and process workers, possibly not all affiliated to the TUC? This problem would be less acute if the directors were chosen from outside the company.

Then there is the question whether a board responsible only to shareholders and employers is wide enough. Will the public interest be neglected if it is not also represented? Expenditure on providing amenities for instance, leaves less both for wages and dividends company export and investment policies are crucial to the national economy. The TUC does not discuss this point at all.

The change in the control of companies if it comes about, will be of major importance to industry and the nation. And since the Labour Party is thinking on the same lines as the TUC, it seems likely something of the sort will be introduced if Labour is returned to power in the coming general election.

It would be as well, therefore, if every aspect of it were to be thoroughly examined in the coming months.

Kenneth Owen reports on a breakthrough in radio communications Keeping in touch underground

Research by the National Coal Board, British Rail and Surrey University has resulted in a major advance to radio communication which is now being applied in British coalmines. Applications on railways, motorways, and in the Channel Tunnel could well follow.

The new technique goes under the strange name of "leaky feeder"—a phrase which here refers not to a dribbling gourmet but to a feeder cable which is designed to carry very-high-frequency radio transmissions and leak them along its length so that they can be received by portable "walkie-talkie" sets.

Until recently it has not been possible to communicate by radio in coalmines. Radio waves cannot propagate easily underground; they are continually reflected from the wet walls, giving a normal range of only a few hundred metres.

Electromagnetic induction—the low-frequency currents carried along a wire are inductively coupled to loop aerials on mobile equipment—has been used in particular for one-way, one-to-many paging. But its performance was limited.

National Coal Board scientists at the Mining Research and Development Establishment at Stanhope, Brethay, Staffordshire, began looking at the problem fresh about eight years ago. They began to develop a system, using standard VHF mobile radio sets in conjunction with the "leaky line" technique, which showed important advantages compared with the former induction method.

In essence, the system involves a special transmission line which runs along the tunnel where radio communication is required. This line is connected, acting in place of a normal aerial, to a fixed VHF radio station.

First experiments showed that the range of standard walkie-talkies could be increased tenfold—from 200 metres to 2km—by using the new technique. But some method was needed to increase this range still further for general use.

Two ways of doing this have been explored. First, one can simply add more main stations, deployed at intervals to give the required coverage. This was done in the NCB's first underground radio system, installed in the Longannet complex of mines in Scotland in 1970.

At Longannet, coal from three linked pits is collected on a continuous conveyor belt running in a 9km tunnel, which slopes up to the surface at both ends. A good two-way radio system was needed to enable patrolmen in the tunnel to keep in constant touch with the surface control room.

The 9km tunnel was covered in three 3km sections, and the experiment proved successful. Production versions of the system have been made for the board by Inzerational Aeradio and Derby Automation Consultants.

The second method of extending the range is to adopt the technique, used in submarine telephony, of fitting amplifiers or repeaters at intervals along the line. On the NCB, these are operating in a "daisy chain" layout with the transmitter and receiver parts of the base station located at opposite ends of the chain.

ton, north Yorkshire; and Clipstone, north Nottinghamshire. The leaky-line systems, as described, have been introduced to give two-way speech communication. But they can do more than this; they can form the basis of "radio communications highways" which carry in addition information for signalling and control purposes.

Cadley Hill is a good example of this access to this drift mine is by a cable-hauled railway system about 3.5km long, with two trains of cars attached to an endless steel rope. As one train goes in the other comes out.

Previously the total distance covered in two stages, with signals and instructions from the guards on the trains to the drivers of the static winding engines being passed via a low-frequency inductive-loop system. This communication method proved unsatisfactory.

Now a repeater-type leaky feeder is used as a communications highway. This gives two-way speech between the engine driver (the two haulages are now combined) and the train guards, or between the train guards themselves or with men who may be on foot; and also, on different frequencies, the signalling and emergency-stop control.

In such an application, the NCB engineers point out, the continuity of communication must always be 100 per cent. The leaky-feeder concept which the Coal Board and Surrey University have pioneered in recent years will have wider applications wherever there is a need to communicate by radio with moving vehicles or in confined spaces such as runnels—hence the active interest of British Rail.

At the NCB, the next step will be to introduce the improved portable sets which are about to be developed, and which would make possible the provision of aers for everyone working underground. At the same time, an extension of the system to include automatic, remote control of static haulage engines is envisaged.

Eight mines in Britain have been equipped with VHF systems so far, some using multiple base stations and others using repeaters. In general, the repeaters are best suited for very long runnels or roadways.

In addition to Longannet, the equipped mines are Cadley Hill in the Midlands; Mariner, Main, south Yorkshire; Calverton, south Nottinghamshire; Barrow, Barnsley area; Wearmouth, north Durham; Sbaris-

ground. The note recorded that the contents as conforming to British Standard 3709, under which some was had scrawled "So did the Titanic".

Paddy Buckley, who is librarian of the Union Carbid subsidiary Bakelite Nylomite at Manningtree, Essex, has proved what has long been argued, that pubs are not the best breeding-ground for cool, clear-headed research.

"Your footnote of July 31 about the sale of contraceptives", Buckley writes, "hints at a very specialized application, the quenching of ardour. BS 3709 relates to 'Portable fire extinguishers...'. As Buckley says, it should have been BS 3704. The misplaced digit may be regarded as a testimony to the excellence of Courage's IPA ale as served at the Gunmakers' Arms in Eyre St Hill, Holborn.

A cool £15m The British Steel Corporation, which last year made a pre-tax profit of £6m against a background of unrelieved gloom in the other nationalized industries, was anxious that Tony Benn should receive the cheque for £15.9m which the state steel undertaking was paying out on its public dividend capital for the first time.

Benn, whose Department of Industry currently has the Steel Corporation's plant closure proposals under review, was, however, apparently too busy to accept the cheque and instead sent along his ministerial colleague, Lord Beswick.

Busy doing nothing for the US economy

In Washington all conversation now centres on Watergate and impeachment. Housewives are glued to their television screens watching the historic deliberations of the House Judiciary Committee while their husbands, be they in business, government or the media, are equally distracted.

In New York and quite probably in the rest of the country, attention tends to be more focused on the economy and to quote President Nixon, on "the major problem confronting America today—inflation".

The President has conferred recently at length with Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve, with Mr Alan Greenspan, the newly appointed chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and with other top aides.

Dr Burns has called for budget cuts of at least \$10 billion, warning that democracy itself is endangered if the United States by the end of the century.

Mr Greenspan is also arguing strongly for tough monetary and fiscal policies. In fact, Mr Greenspan recently told the Washington Star-News that for the first time in his career he is now desperately worried about a real depression developing as inflation rockets ahead.

Mr Nixon, however, by his recent speech has demonstrated that he is disregarding this advice and is instead being guided by Mr Roy Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, who has long argued against serious budget cuts.

The President appears to be prepared to cut no more than \$5 billion from the budget—1.5 per cent in the total budget—a reduction of less than 1 per cent. The President has completely rejected the suggestions of numerous of his key aides to increase taxation now.

The President evidently feels that somehow he can convince the people that he is controlling the economy by sheer rhetoric. He has told the unemployed, for example, that at least they could be thankful that there is no draft any longer and they do not have to go and fight in a war.

He has told a nation struggling desperately to pay its bills—personal payment delinquencies are now at a record level and real earnings are sharply down—that America is still the "strongest economy anywhere in the world today".

Mr Nixon was told the nation is in a state of stagflation, yet he fought, if everybody spends less and saves more, but this hardly seems like a policy action that can be relied upon to produce results.

Then the President has stated that monetary policy will not be so tight that it hampers real economic growth, yet the Fed maintains that without much tougher fiscal policies it has no alternative other than to pursue the toughest monetary policies in more than two decades.

Mr Nixon appears to be out of touch with the real world. The result is that one has nothing but mere hope upon which to rely in suggesting that the United States will come out of its present recession.

What is perhaps the most serious of all is that some of his critics contend that he is just not interested in economic policies. For 31 years the President stuck with price and wage controls, repeatedly telling the nation that this was the way to curb inflation.

These controls were terminated two months ago and the President has now told the nation that he will not resort to the discretionary control medicine of price and wage controls.

The United States has had two consecutive quarters of negative GNP development and inflation is running at an annual rate of 12 per cent. The balance of trade is moving into deficit, unemployment is likely to surge to 6 per cent.

To all this the President reports that he is confident that America will return to strong prosperity without inflation. The question that Mr Nixon has utterly failed to address himself to is just now this goal will be attained.

Frank Vogl

Business Diary: Chunnel choice • Bracewell-Milnes' new berth

Sir Alec Cairncross, who was five years head of the Government economic service up to 1969 and has been used before by Whitbaird to get a good job done in a hurry, will have some pressures on him for speedy results as chairman of the group of independent advisers who are reassessing the controversial Channel Tunnel project.

Although the decision to go ahead on the main tunnel works need not in theory be made until the end of June next year, there is pressure to clear the air by the end of this year, when the tunnel treaty is due to be ratified under the agreement between the British and French Governments and the tunnel builders either side of the Channel.

After the announcement of his appointment last night, Sir Alec, now Master of St Peter's College, Oxford told Business Diary that, although he regarded next midsummer as the key deadline, he expected to be able to proffer advice periodically as the reassessment progressed. "The first thing is to settle finally who the other advisers will be—there could be up to six in all," he explained. "We should be able to get down to the job in September."

Sir Alec faces the prospect of investigating the considerable amount of money on the research and other paperwork that has accumulated around the long-mooted tunnel. He sees the reassessment as the means of making the Government reassuring itself that something of importance has not been missed.

He added: "In all these big



"As a counter to Labour's alleged compact with the unions, couldn't we claim NOT to have one with the CBI?"

construction schemes there are liable to be some things which are overlooked. We shall act as a longstop. Some factors also have changed in the last year; we shall obviously have to take special account of the energy price equations.

Considering the timing difficulties which face the Chunnel venture it is surprising that an announcement of the reassessment team has not been made before now. After Anthony Crossland's announcement of the inquiry earlier this year, if there is an autumn election, whoever forms the new Government faces the embarrassment of the Channel Tunnel Bill not making the Statute Book before the treaty deadline of January 1.

If Sir Alec proved able to

answer to the problems it has faced as the better solution would be to allow the public and private sectors to continue to operate in parallel, although there is recognition of the desirability of a central planning organ to coordinate the industry.

Among those drafted in to assist and advise the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association on the presentation of its arguments against nationalization is Dr Barry Bracewell-Milnes, who last year gave up his job as the economic director of the Confederation of British Industry following disagreement with the CBI leadership over the organization's attitudes and policies regarding the economy.

The high-wire economist has been charged with the task of assembling the basic economic data on which the SRNA will in a large extent base its case, although it has not been expected to provide a blueprint alternative to nationalization. The policy will be shared by the CPMA executive committee, which is due to meet later this month.

Cliff Baylis, the organization's director, who was formerly in charge of shipbuilding policy at the Department of Industry in the immediate post-Edwards Renort era, said yesterday that the industry would be approached in its discussions with the Government with a very open mind.

Standard check

Business Diary's footnote about the sale of contraceptives in pubs has drawn reproach not on ethical, but on strictly factual

grounds. The note recorded that the contents as conforming to British Standard 3709, under which some was had scrawled "So did the Titanic".

Paddy Buckley, who is librarian of the Union Carbid subsidiary Bakelite Nylomite at Manningtree, Essex, has proved what has long been argued, that pubs are not the best breeding-ground for cool, clear-headed research.

"Your footnote of July 31 about the sale of contraceptives", Buckley writes, "hints at a very specialized application, the quenching of ardour. BS 3709 relates to 'Portable fire extinguishers...'. As Buckley says, it should have been BS 3704. The misplaced digit may be regarded as a testimony to the excellence of Courage's IPA ale as served at the Gunmakers' Arms in Eyre St Hill, Holborn.

A cool £15m

The British Steel Corporation, which last year made a pre-tax profit of £6m against a background of unrelieved gloom in the other nationalized industries, was anxious that Tony Benn should receive the cheque for £15.9m which the state steel undertaking was paying out on its public dividend capital for the first time.

Benn, whose Department of Industry currently has the Steel Corporation's plant closure proposals under review, was, however, apparently too busy to accept the cheque and instead sent along his ministerial colleague, Lord Beswick.

1974 Results and Property Revaluation

The following facts are taken from the preliminary announcement to Shareholders.

	Year ended 30/4/74	Year ended 30/4/73	Percentage increase over previous period
External sales	£14,858,000	£11,174,000	31%
Trading Profit and other income	£2,014,114	£1,148,477	76%
Profit before Tax	£1,754,114	£1,148,477	53%
Profit after Tax and Minority Interests attributable to Ordinary Shareholders*	£783,010	£555,016	
(Tax rate increased from 40% to 52%)			
Earnings per Share	3.19p	2.87p	
Total Dividend (maximum under Stage III Contract Inflation Programme)	1.0874p	1.0165p	

Notes:
1. Property Revaluation—All group properties were revalued on 30th April 1974 to show a surplus of £5,160,000 (21p per share) over Balance Sheet value.
2. Trading—Throughout the year the Company's products have been in strong demand and increased output has resulted in record sales and profits. The Group is strongly based both financially and technically and the Board view the future with confidence.

The Report and Accounts will be posted to Shareholders on 15th August, and copies can be obtained from the Secretary, Alliance Alders Paper and Packaging Limited, Lichfield Road, Tamworth, Staffs.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Crest faces disciplinary action by Panel over Ashbourne directives

By Margaret Drummond
The Takeover Panel is to take disciplinary action against the Crest International Corporate Guarantee consortium following non-compliance with certain of the directives contained in last week's statement on Ashbourne Investments.

UK groups set for stake in Cerro copper project

By Andrew Wilson
It now appears probable that over \$100m of equipment will be supplied from this country to the proposed Cerro Colorado copper mine in Panama.

been unable to act because it is itself a party to one of the High Court actions. Until the actions are settled it appears unlikely that it will be able to make a judgment in the consortium's failure to proceed with its mandatory bid for Ashbourne, although it can investigate non-compliance with its recent directive.

Alliance Alders profits soar to over £2m

In spite of the board's caution at half-time Staffordshire-based Alliance Alders Paper & Packaging has gone ahead to produce a fresh record in profits.

Stock markets Bear closing fails to lift prices

The stock market remained weak yesterday, with pressure on the oil share pitches providing the latest cause for misery in the equity market.

Latest dividends

Table with columns: Company, Dividend, Yield, etc. listing various companies and their dividend details.

St Martins' sharp setback after extra £1m of interest

Although net rental and other income of St Martins Property Corporation improved from £5.62m to £6.38m for 1973-74, group net profits dropped from £1.6m to £1.1m.

Issues & Loans Poor response to TMT offer

S. G. Warburg's Transatlantic Market Trust has won a thin response from investors. Warburg had already received firm applications for 300,000 partici-

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Table showing Eurobond prices for various countries and maturities, including columns for Bid, Offer, and Standard.

Renwick earnings nearly halved

The late warning in June from Renwick Group, the haulage, travel, garages and motor caravans concern, of a "significant" downturn in profits after a confident forecast, is fully borne out in year-end results.

Mining rebound to peak

Recovering smartly at mid-way from the preceding year's collapse in profits Mining Supplies in the full year to April 27 more than doubled the output at £595,000 pre-tax (a record), compared with £225,000.

Hellenic in the red

Falling markets have evidently posed problems for Hambros subsidiary, Hellenic & General Transport.

Interim upswing by Glenlivet

Financial results of Glenlivet Distilleries have got away to a brilliant start. At pre-tax level profits for the 24 weeks to June 14 show a gain of 67 per cent.

Slump in profits at Caledon

Delays in the supply of materials and major sub-contracted items have meant a sharp deterioration at Robb Caledon Shipyards and a final return far worse than expected at halfway.

Mining New R80m shaft at Saaiplaas

President Brand's subsidiary, Free State Saaiplaas, is to spend R80m on the sinking of a new shaft in the western part of its lease area.

Ford tumbles 57pc in second quarter

Reporting a decline of over 57 per cent in second-quarter earnings, Ford Motor from Dearborn, Michigan, blames the downturn on inflation, slump in car sales and a strike at a key plant.

Pan-Am and KLM losses mounting

In the second quarter of this year, the net loss of Pan American World Airways more than doubled from \$3.4m to \$8.4m (£3.5m) on revenues up from \$357.4m to \$385.1m.

Robert Kitchen begins well

Having achieved record growth last year, Robert Kitchen Cycle has made good progress in the first half of the current term.

Berkeley Hambro sale to Tootal

In an effort to boost its policy of increasing exports Tootal has acquired Mitchell Goldie from Berkeley Hambro Property for £400,000 cash.

Abbey Ltd rides over forecast

Dublin-based Abbey Ltd, marketed in May, 1973, reports full-time results justifying the conditions of last March, with both profits and dividend surpassing those forecast.

Wall Street

New York, August 1.—Stocks on the New York exchange continued to fall today with little support.

Table for Banca Popolare di Novara showing assets, liabilities, and reserves with various sub-sections and numerical values.

Business appointments Four new deputy chairmen at Samuel Montagu

Mr Rudolf Blechroeder, Mr John Gillum, Mr Paul Jeany and Mr John Storar have been appointed deputy chairmen of Samuel Montagu.

Canada Prices

Table showing Canadian prices for various commodities and currencies, including columns for Item, Unit, and Price.

MARKET REPORTS

Foreign Exchange Steadier trend in the mark

The mark closed steady against the dollar on the foreign exchange yesterday... The mark closed at 2.5735-50 against the United States currency...

Large Bank help for discount houses

In the London discount market, a day that was expected to be "flat" turned out to be quite short and the Bank of England was required to assist the market on a scale that was large overall...

Commodities Heavy losses in coffee futures

News of a more aggressive selling policy by Brazil caused London COFFEE robusta futures to fall heavily... The second position dropped 122.25 to 4485.75 - the lowest since November...

Rubber stocks rise

World stocks of natural and synthetic rubber rose to 3,392,000 tons on August 1... The rise in stocks came from synthetic rubber, where total stocks climbed to 1,632,500 tons...

Spot Position of Sterling

Table with columns for Market rates and Forward rates for various currencies including US Dollar, Swiss Franc, and Japanese Yen.

Forward Levels

Table showing forward levels for various currencies and interest rates, including Prime Bank Bill, Treasury, and various bank rates.

Money Market Rates

Table detailing money market rates for different terms and currencies, including 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month rates.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various sectors like Industrial, Financial, and General, along with recent issues and bank base rates.

Recent Issues

Table listing recent issues of various companies and their market performance, including Barclays Bank, FNFC, and others.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Large table listing authorized units, insurance policies, and offshore funds with columns for name, value, and other details.

Business Notices

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MIDDLE EAST... MEDIUM SIZE ELECTRONICS COMPANY... U.K. COMPANY...

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... Notice is hereby given that a petition for winding up of the above-named company...

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948... Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company...

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TURKISH ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ANKARA-TURKEY. 2 x 400 t/h Coal Handling and 2 x 1800 t/h Ash Removal equipment shall be purchased for the 4 x 300 MW. AfSiN-Elbistan Thermal Power Plant, TURKEY. Includes details on bidding process and contact information.

Bank Base Rates

Table showing bank base rates for various banks like Barclays Bank, FNFC, Hill Samuel, etc.

NEW HOMES

Buy now is the advice to new home buyers

It's often when an army is at its most tired, most sullen and nearest to defeat that it is summoned to make the greatest effort of all.

People thinking of buying new homes are not exactly an army, although there are lots of them and they are all volunteers. But there are many in the ranks who must still be licking their wounds after the skirmishes of the last two years with building societies who have no money, or are asking too much for it, or with builders who seemed to change their prices with every day's post.

Nevertheless, if buying a new home seemed a good idea at the time, it is an even better one now, and there are better signs for success.

More money to borrow

First of all, the building societies have more cash to lend. This is primarily because more savers are now looking towards them rather than towards the banks, and partly because the Government has given loans, and therefore new confidence to the societies in an attempt to hold mortgage rates stable.

There is also a wide range of property on the market, and among the building societies' priorities are not only first-time home buyers, but buyers of new houses—a measure to boost the building industry. Builders are falling over themselves to sell their houses, following a very bad year in which shortage of building society funds led to few houses being sold, and to the interruption or cancellation of building programmes. The buyer who brings himself or herself to plunge into the thickets of home ownership now will have an edge over those who are still windied by their last attempt.

Mr Dick Sinfield, president of the House-Builders' Federation, said recently that "the winds of economic change have not blown any good to the house-builder but they have presented a golden opportunity to the house-buyer."

There were, he said, an unprecedentedly high number of unsold houses and houses under construction. Builders had been obliged to pare down profit margins to the bone, and in some cases were even selling at a loss, despite having paid high prices for the land, materials

and labour, and high levels of interest to the banks.

On the other hand, house-buyers could now take advantage of the hundreds of millions of government money loaned to the building societies, and would find houses at bargain prices. Mr Sinfield, as builders' representative is, of course, eager to persuade as many people as possible to buy a new home as quickly as possible, but his current plea is possibly never been more sincere. His argument runs that even with the mortgage rate at 11 per cent, purchasers will pay no more than 7.7 per cent after tax relief, and there is a fair prospect of a marginal reduction in the rate should interest rates continue to fall.

When interests end mortgage rates do fall, he says, there will be a rush to buy. Buyers willing or able to pay 11 per cent will in the meantime reap the benefit of a rock-bottom price."

In spite of the current price-cutting, he suggests that house prices will again rise, and not only because of the increased competition for properties from buyers who find loans more readily available or are encouraged by a fall in mortgage rate to make use of money already available to them.

It is true, he says, that the prices of building land are going down because fewer builders are chasing the land that is up for sale. On the other hand, this, too, will alter as demand picks up, while the forthcoming development gains tax will either dry up the supply of land or lead to higher prices.

Price rises in pipeline

Even in the short term, he argues, the saving in land prices is already outweighed by other cost increases. The cost of materials, he says, is going up by 20 per cent a year, while the price of few commodities has gone up by less than 10 per cent. Some prices, like that of timber, have doubled in the past 12 months.

Higher fuel costs alone, he adds, will put up prices by at least 10 per cent, while there are additional cost pressures from recent pay awards to building workers. To return to the price of building land, there is another factor which will serve to end the current favourable house price position. The site value of a new house accounts for an average 26

per cent of the purchase price, ranging from 14 per cent in Scotland to 33 per cent in the London area.

Building land, Mr Sinfield said, was cheaper than it was— even at £20,000 an acre—but it was in fact already becoming more expensive for the reason that planning delays are getting longer. The average time taken between receipt of a planning appeal and a decision by the Secretary of State after inquiry was 79 weeks in April this year, compared with 43 weeks in the same month of 1971.

Even on a high-density development this meant about £500 on the cost of a single site. In June this year, the building industry was indebted to clearing banks for about £2,118m, all of which pointed towards dearer houses.

"The long-term prospect," he went on, "is for very expensive houses."

Mr Sinfield added: "It is all a far cry from the days when builders and vendors were accused of gouging and of the National Building Agency, of which he is also chairman, to enable them to make the most effective contribution to new initiatives for the voluntary housing movement."

In plain English, what this means is that Lord Goodman is trying to find new ways in which investment could be attracted to the commission, which could then be channelled into the various voluntary housing associations.

These associations have for many years done much to help people house themselves, either by buying or renting the properties at non-profit prices. The housing association movement has been effective for over a century, and in that time has built over 100,000 houses and flats.

Much of the money has so far come from charitable donations and bequests, from the proceeds of public appeals and from low interest loan stocks and from local authority loans.

The present Government, through its current Housing Bill, aims to strengthen both the corporation and the housing association movement, although housing is an emotive subject, this is a minority government, and the bill is facing stiff opposition.

Anybody wanting to know more about the association movement may ask for further information from the National Federation of Housing Associations, which is 86 Strand, London, WC2.

£12,857 in London and the South-east to £7,430 in Northern Ireland. The comparison with modern second-hand houses is interesting, because they in fact cost more—ample. If you're selling, fetched more. The comparative figures were average cost £10,533, varying between £12,940 in the London area to £7,622 in Northern Ireland.

The Nationwide went on to report, however, that the present slowdown in house-price values might be short-lived, particularly in this southern region. And despite overall modest declines, prices were beginning to increase in the new and older sectors in some areas.

In the longer term, there are other developments aimed at helping people to find new homes, whether to buy or to rent. Last year, for example, Lord Goodman became chairman of the Housing Corporation in succession to Sir Herbert Ashworth. Lord Goodman's first task was to review the functions of the corporation and of the National Building Agency, of which he is also chairman, to enable them to make the most effective contribution to new initiatives for the voluntary housing movement.

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Ross Davies

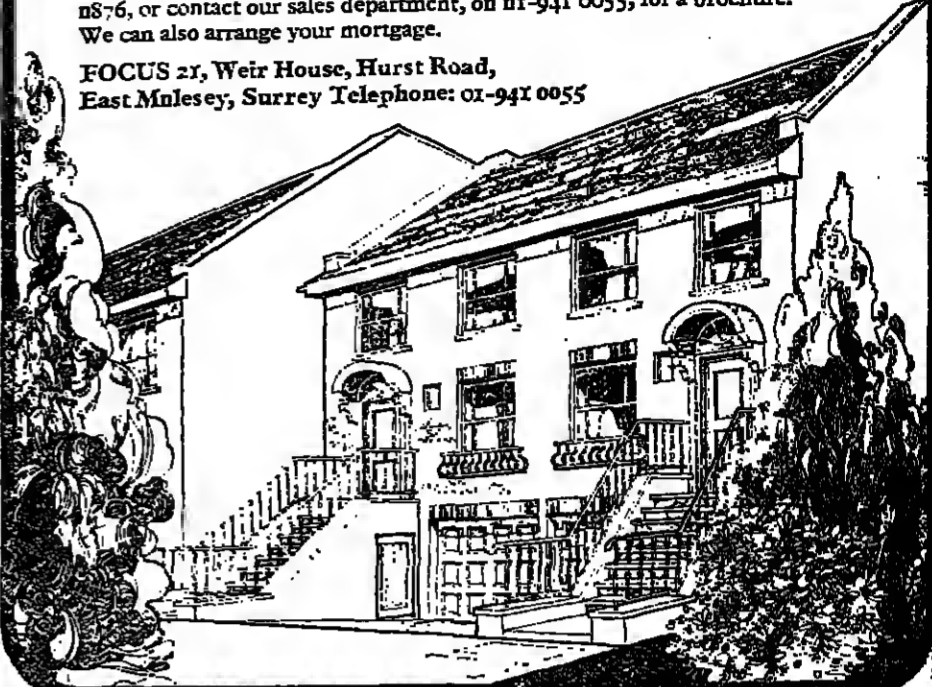
FOCUS 21

A beautiful home, and a perfect investment

Close to Teddington Lock, in Manor Road Teddington, are a group of town houses built by Focus 21. They must be one of the greatest investment prospects on the market. Because of increased building costs, these houses could never be built again at these prices.

They range from £22,750 to £24,950 freehold. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and lavishly fitted kitchen. Visit the super showhouse. Open every day between 11 am and 5 pm. Telephone 01-941 0576, or contact our sales department, on 01-941 0055, for a brochure. We can also arrange your mortgage.

FOCUS 21, Weir House, Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey Telephone: 01-941 0055



Other sites nearby

- Fortescue Park, Wellesley Road, Twickenham. 4 and 5 bed town houses. From £23,750
- Upper Grotto Road, Twickenham. 01-892 7262 3 bed town cottages, from £16,450
- Wensleydale Road, Hampton. Detached 4 bed Georgian style, £26,250
- *Showhouse at this site open 6 days a week, including weekends, between 11am and 5pm
- Tower Road, Twickenham. Extra large town houses, from £26,750
- Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham. 3 and 4 bed town cottages, from £16,450

CARDINAL HOMES LTD.



Show houses now open at

- 215 CROFTON LANE, PETTS WOOD: 4 bed detached houses with fully fitted carpets. From £23,500.
- BULLERS WOOD DRIVE, CHISLEHURST: Spacious 4/5 bedroom detached houses. From £36,000 to £46,000.
- MANOR PARK ROAD, CHISLEHURST: The most luxurious of detached houses. From £41,000 to £54,000.

THESE SITES ONLY 25 MINUTES LONDON

The above include some 20 different house styles—with the most lavish of specifications and tremendous choice of fittings.

Ring Orpington 24241

26 STATION SQUARE, PETTS WOOD, KENT.

LUXURY HOUSES IN DORSET

Individually designed properties built in Brick and Purbeck stone with Oil-fired Central Heating



Typical accommodation: 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en suite), large lounge and dining room, study, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom, double garage. Good garden with concrete drive and paths. Lawns laid to front garden. Situated on small select development amongst fir trees and rhododendrons, at Casser's Camp, Roman Road, Corfe Mullen, Bournemouth, Dorset. Shopping centre and golf course at Broadstone.

Yachting and fishing at Poole (4 miles), Bournemouth 8 miles. Prices from £32,500 Freehold

For really well-built, nicely finished properties apply to:

W. L. & D. SHURMER LTD. (BUILDERS)

141 Hankinson Road, Bournemouth. Telephone Bournemouth 512156.

COURTYARD HOMES AT TOTTERIDGE VILLAGE N20

3/4 beds, 2 baths, some split-level with integral patios. PRICES FROM £35,000-£40,000

Lawdon Ltd. Croydon 686 6041

VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN TORREMOLINOS AND ESTEPONA (ALSO MAJORCA AND IBIZA)

APARTMENTS: FROM £2,300. VILLAS: £4,050. LUXURY VILLAS: FROM £30,000. Inspection visits from £35, fully inclusive of hotel, meals, etc.

PROMECON PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED
70a High Street, Staines, Middlesex. Tel: Staines 57382/3/4
438 Millbrook Road, Southampton, Hants. Tel: Southampton 771922/3/4

SAN CLEMENTE GOLF COURSE & COUNTRY CLUB

Golf course in final stages of construction. Roads and services completed and numerous attractive villas built and occupied. Remaining 1/2 acre golf frontage plots available from £3,770. Highly recommended. Full details from:

MELPOND INTERCONTINENTAL
International Estate Agents & Property Consultants
4 Park Mansions, Arden 36 Knightsbridge, SW1X 7QP Tel: 01-234 8206

NORTH DEVON

A superior development of individual homes situated just on the outskirts of a major town. Comprising DETACHED GEORGIAN STYLE HOUSES AND BUNGALOWS. From £11,975 to £16,350. Covered by the NHBC 10yr guarantee and including full central heating.

Joint sole agents: **SANDERS & SON**
4, Cross St., Barnstaple. Tel. Barnstaple 3008 and JOHN C. WEBBER
Boutport St., Barnstaple. Tel. Barnstaple 4010.

NORFOLK/SUFFOLK DETACHED BUNGALOW FROM £7,655

Contact: **J. F. BENNETT (Lakenheath) LTD., Dept. T, Hailmark Buildings Lakenheath, Suffolk Tel: Lakenheath 765**

For the hard to please

A country house in rural

STUDHAM

BEDFORDSHIRE

Looking for something special? Studham is a small Bedfordshire village with all the tranquillity of beautiful country surroundings. But look at your map. The M1 access is only four miles away and Luton, Dunstable, Hemel Hempstead, Harpenden and even Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City are all within a short drive. And the golf course is very close. Up till now you would have had to search hard for a cottage or house in this unique locality. Now Davis Estates have changed the situation—slightly. For the fortunate few they are offering a selection of 4 and 5 bedroom houses on spacious plots with all the features you would hope to find, including double garages, full central heating, super kitchen and en-suite bathrooms. Prices start at £28,500 freehold, for your very special holiday home. Mortgages available. Write or telephone for details now. 10:

DAVIS ESTATES LTD
Station House, Potters Bar, Herts. Tel: Potters Bar 51212
DAVIS A MEMBER OF THE WOOD HALL BUILDING GROUP

GORDON PLACE KENSINGTON, W.8

An excellent development of 5 luxury flats in this delightful period building. The property is situated in this quiet street in the heart of Kensington. These architect designed 1 and 2 bedroomed flats are all finished to a luxury standard. Available on 125 year leases with low outgoings. Prices £22,000 to £26,000. Apply for brochure and viewing.

GRAHAM T. HERBERD & ASSOCIATES
72 ROCHESTER ROW, SW1. 01-528 7293

TONBRIDGE

From £24,250. Quiet cul de sac. Walking distance main line station. Superior individualised development. 11 detached family residences, 4 bedrooms, cloakroom, full gas c.h., garage (space second). N.H.B.R.C. Sale agents: Brooks & Son, 132 High St., Tonbridge. Tel: 07332 63206/8.

Temple House, Theobalds Park, Enfield, Middx.

10 Luxury apartments in 8 acres of landscaped grounds with private swimming pool, sauna and tennis courts.

Temple House is an authentic Georgian residence completely renovated and converted into 2 and 3 bedroom luxury apartments. Set in its own grounds and surrounded by delightful Hertfordshire countryside, Temple House offers a truly relaxing atmosphere, enhanced by the residents private sauna and heated indoor swimming pool. Two tennis courts will also be provided in the grounds and golfing, fishing, sailing, hunting and riding facilities are all nearby. And all this is within easy reach of the City and West End of London. If you would like to know more about Temple House or to arrange to visit the show flat contact: **Rodney J. Short, Arbon & Upton, 12 St. Andrew Street, Herford (433) 2536** A Development by the Careford Group

SHOW APARTMENT NOW OPEN

Salterns Point

Out on its own

Situated in a unique setting overlooking Poole Harbour, is perhaps the most exclusive apartment development on the South Coast—Salterns Point. Prices start at £65,000 for a magnificently appointed apartment with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious sitting room, superbly fitted kitchen and an extensive balcony. The development is adjacent to Poole Harbour Yacht Club, and some berths at the Club Marina may be available to purchasers. Write to, or telephone Malcolm MacCormack and arrange to receive our comprehensive brochure or make an appointment to view the Show Apartment.

Fraternal
Fraternal Developments Limited, Lee House, 361-369 Walsdown Road, Poole, Dorset. Telephone Bournemouth (0202) 517316

RENWAY

EDGCUMBE PARK, CROWTHORNE

SOUTH EAST BERKSHIRE

33 miles west of London. Convenient for M3/M4. WELLINGTON PARK, CROWTHORNE BARKHART DRIVE, WOKINGHAM

A choice of well designed, well built, well finished modern houses with many interesting features in beautiful wooded surroundings close to all amenities. Prices from £29,000—£29,000.

RENWAY Edgcumbe Park, Crowthorne 2895.

"Lovely Bungalows in a lovely setting" at VERWOOD

The Chase is a new development of detached bungalows, at Verwood on the Hants/Dorset border. (Phase 2 just commencing.) Four miles of wide road run to the London Road A31 at Ringwood market town, then eight miles of dual-carriageway to Bournemouth/Poole with its shops and theatres, boats and sand. Verwood has a population of three thousand but is a quiet corner on the edge of the Forest and the Cranborne Chase. Several designs of bungalows are available for your inspection at prices around £17,500—all with three bedrooms and luxury kitchens end gas central heating, so if you would like to know about them write to Boyland (Builders) Ltd., 869 Ringwood Road, Bournemouth, for more details and about the two remaining 4 bedroom/2 bathroom/2 garage luxury houses available elsewhere in the village.

Just off HYDE PARK

A unique period development of luxury flats 24 flats with one, two and three bedrooms from £18,500

Leases: 999 years No ground rents

Show flat: 58 Inverness Terrace - W2

VIEW SUNDAY 2.30 - 6.30

SOLE AGENTS **BOURDAS & CO.**
1 CRAVEN TERRACE - W2 - 01-723 6611

Close to REGENTS PARK

A quality development behind Georgian Facade 14 flats and maisonettes with two-four rooms from £20,750

Leases: 999 years No ground rents

Show flat: 159 Gloucester Place - NW1

Handwritten Arabic text: صكنا من الاموال

NEW HOMES



Lee Court, Dartmouth

Luxury apartments for sale. 2 bedrooms, 1 & 2 bathrooms, excellent river views. Deep moorings may be obtained by request.

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Residential property

Although old water mills are popular subjects for conversion, the larger variety are daunting propositions for any but the professional, and even he may not have an easy time. Large floor areas do not necessarily break down conveniently into separate rooms, particularly if as much as possible of the character of the old building is to be retained.

Converting with character

If the scheme is well carried through one advantage is that it produces a great variety in the shape and size of the rooms created and the finished product has its own singularity of character. One of the larger and more successful schemes nearing completion is The Grove Mill in Gurr Mill Lane, near Watford, Hertfordshire, which has been converted into 12 small flats by the Cotage Men Ltd. of Aylesbury, a company specialising in renovation work. The original four-storey building was a corn mill built in 1875, although the machinery was in fact never used. Operation about three years ago. Nine of the flats have two bedrooms and the rest one, and each flat is individual in its layout and size. A difficulty with such a high old building is the installation of a lift. It has been solved by the construction of a separate lift tower in an architectural style similar to that of the main building. The development covers about half an acre at the confluence of the river Gage and the Great Ouse, and has exceptional views. Garages and moorings are available to tenants. The flats are being offered on 99-year leases at fixed ground rents of £25 a year. The present maintenance charge is £115 a year. Prices of the flats range between £14,750 and £21,850 and the agents are Simpson Lock and Co., 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The architects were James L. Caldwell and Associates, of Watford. The scheme is a modernized old property would also be interested in a new scheme to be carried out at Oak Park, Gages in Watford, Hertfordshire, where a hamlet of six small cottages is to be made into three individual houses to sell for between £25,000 and £28,000. The six existing stone and stone-slate cottages will provide three-bedroom and four-

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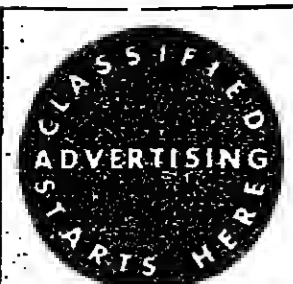
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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 29



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,753

1 Preliminary description of the outlook before us (10).

2 Get away with it as undetected sailor (4).

3 Bill may have favourable reply to invitation (10).

4 To a prudish girl a way of dissipation (8, 4).

5 Stomach crop on the farm—perhaps a lie to follow? (9).

6 To the morning 'I'm off' with a friend from Spain (5).

7 Sound plucky but noisy (5).

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